50¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

OCTOBER 5th, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 40 ★ *13th Year of Publishing* ★ FIFTY-CENTS

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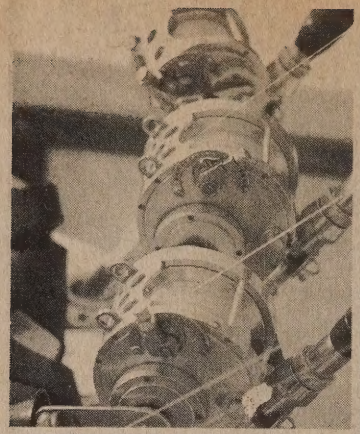
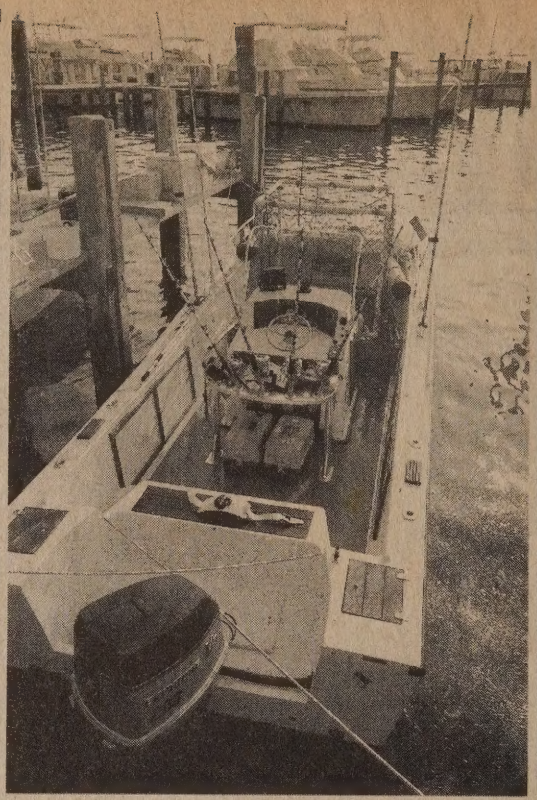
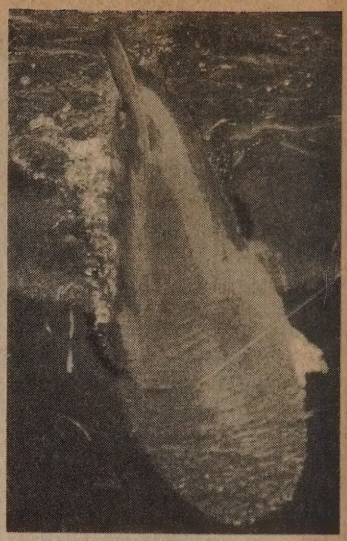
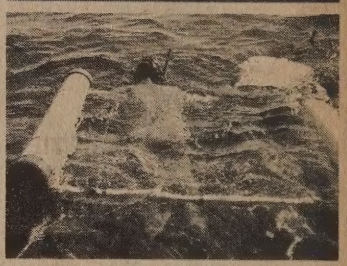


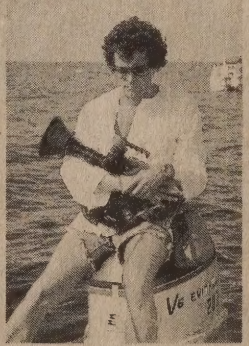






Mako Produces Film on Shark Tagging

Mako Marine produced a 22 minute color film on Shark tagging, at Walker's Cay in the Bahamas. The purpose of this film is twofold. First, to educate the angler on why and how to tag sharks. Secondly, to show how today's new breed of fisherman are running great distances in small boats, to catch large fish. The film is being used by marine biologists in their shark tagging and research programs. You'll enjoy the film, both from it's educational value, as well as from it's excellent underwater footage. The film is free to fishing, and conservation and other interested groups. We only ask you to return it as soon as you are through.



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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 40 — OCTOBER 5, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

FLATFISH

About the Cover—

The fall run of monster bluefish is on in full force all around the Island—North Shore, South Shore, the New York Bight and the East End, and fishermen are catching them from boat and surf. See the fishing reports for further details.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Scott Simons — MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Wm. A. Muller — EDITOR
Al Ristori — CONSERVATION EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
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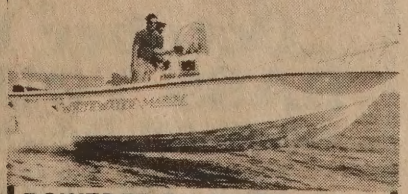

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PS Form 3526 Mar. 1977 *(Page 1)* (See instructions on reverse)

Who is Montauk's Super Bass Fisherman?

October Full Moon BASS TOURNAMENT

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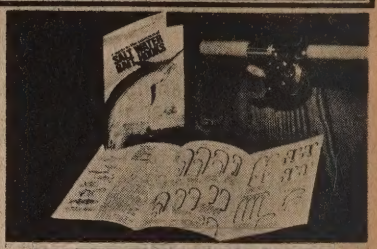

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"A Guide to the Selection of Salt Water Bait Hooks" is the title of a new, 10-page fishing folder released by O. Mustad & Son (USA) Inc. This handy new folder provides the saltwater angler with information on a wide range of hook patterns that apply to the many different saltwater fish species. Over 30 different hook patterns, sizes and finishes are illustrated and described. The wide choice of patterns emphasizes the broad range of physical features encountered among saltwater fishes: hard mouths requiring a point that will dig in and hold...fast!; soft mouths that demand a style that won't tear flesh too easily; jumping, tail-walking acrobats that need a sharp, deep-diving point they can't shake; sharp-toothed creatures that require a long shank and, of course, small mouths that will take small hooks, big mouths, big hooks. Also included are illustrations and descriptions for 14 typical saltwater bait rigs. Single or bulk copies are available. Write to: O. Mustad & Son (USA) Inc., P.O. Box 838, Auburn, NY 13021.

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Ever get a lunker almost to the boat and the line breaks? Was it the fish that broke the line? Likely not.

The guides on your fishing rod can cause friction against the line. Rough guides can abrade the line and weaken it. Choosing the right guides is as important as choosing the right rod.

But the fisherman flexing a prospective purchase in the sporting goods store seldom thinks of the guides. The home rod winder may think of them, but he has little information to go on—until now.

A new pamphlet from Mildrum Manufacturing Company explains how to choose the right guides and tops for your fishing rod. It gives laboratory test results on Mildrum Linesavers ceramic guides evaluating smoothness, corrodibility and coefficient of friction. It shows how these factors affect the life of your fishing line.

Individual copies of the Linesavers booklet are available free by writing Mildrum Manufacturing Co., East Berlin, CT 06023.

CHUM LINES

INFO ON SUNDIALS NEEDED

While fluke fishing Long Island Sound, I caught a fish that was larger than any fluke caught that day. It was flat, thinner than a fluke, and an orange-brown in color. At first, I thought it was a yellowtail flounder, but a fellow fisherman said it was another species called a sundial. Future trips to places like Moriches saw more of these fish. I'd appreciate any information you can give me regarding these fish. Thank you. **Joe Petrotta, Muskogee, OK.**

The temptation here would be to tell you to keep looking in the Fish Talk column for an upcoming article on sundials; but that wouldn't be fair since who knows how many months it will be before it runs. Joe, your question is a good one and although many fishermen are very familiar with the sundial, in other parts of the Island the fish may be a rarity. At first glance, the fish looks like a fluke, but closer examination reveals that there is very little meat on the animal. The sundial, also called windowpane, belongs to the family of left-eyed flounders called Bothidae. Sundials [Scopthalmus aquasus] are active flatfish predators. They will often feed side by side with fluke and other game fish such as weakfish and small bass. At times they will herd bait, such as sand eels, into tight schools and then rush them from below. They feed actively night and day. They are generally not eaten by fishermen because they are so thin and thus are difficult to fillet. However, they are excellent table fare and large specimens can be handled without too much difficulty. **Dr. W. A. Muller.**

CARRYING A SURF ROD ON "NEW-FANGLED" CARS

I have been subscribing to the Long Island Fisherman for over three years now, and enjoy your articles very much. I have a problem and I am hoping with your knowledge you will be able to help me. I have been to many tackle shops, but they have been unable to help me.

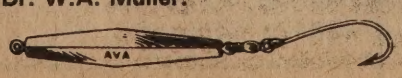
Being a surf fisherman for many years, I have always been able to attach my one-piece surf fishing rods to the top of my car with the standard pole holders. With the new cars today, many of them do not have the rain gutters from which the pole holders should be attached. I would appreciate it greatly if you could let me know what you suggest. Your prompt attention would be greatly appreciated. **Donel C. Smith, Holbrook, NY**

You're right! The big three auto manufacturers keep telling us that they are making their products better, but they seem to cut corners when it comes to the fishermen. Many of the new cars do not have a rain gutter and, therefore, there is no anchor for the rod holders. To my knowledge, no company makes a rod carry device that is adaptable to these cars. However, all is not lost. It seems that skiers have strong economic voices even if the pleas of fishermen are often ignored. Ski roof holders are made in several designs and several companies make models that can be used on cars that lack the rain gutters. The initial price may shock you a bit —a reasonably good make will cost about $20—until you think of the advantages. One, it will never rust; two, they come with locks so that you can stop at a diner without that old suspicion; and three, they are good for a lifetime with a little care. So for about four times the cost of the average rod carry device, you can have a permanent lockable rod carry. **Dr. W. A. Muller.**

A LITTLE WORD OF ADVICE

During the past few weeks, many sharks and tuna have been taken in our offshore waters, but a very good number of these fish are lost. Granted hooks do pull out, reels do get stripped, rods break. But as a mate I've run across a problem that has always been with us in offshore fishing. The problem is this: the person fighting the fish on the rod—either standing up or in a fighting chair, has played with the drag setting on the reel. Now women do this, and a fish comes alongside, it is still green; he makes a run, then "Pop" the line breaks and the fish is lost. Now I know that my rods and reels are checked completely before each day's fishing and still you have people who think the drag is not tightened down, until it's tightened down so much that the spool doesn't move. I just wish people who are experienced or not experienced, would just listen to the Captain and mate. They are there to help you and to make the best of the day's fishing. Remember, they are out fishing everyday, so they do know what and what not to do. I'm tired of losing fish because someone doesn't think the equipment is right or the mate and captain don't know what they are doing. **John Antignaro, East Meadow, New York.**

We appreciate the tip and suggestions from a guy who is close to the action and I'm sure that our readers will follow your advice. At the same time, John, drag settings do become altered by accident; rod and reel slides along gunwale, accidentally bumped during the fight, rubbed against chair or fish box. We know because it's happened to us. We avoid the problem by checking drag settings regularly DURING the trip. **Dr. W.A. Muller.**



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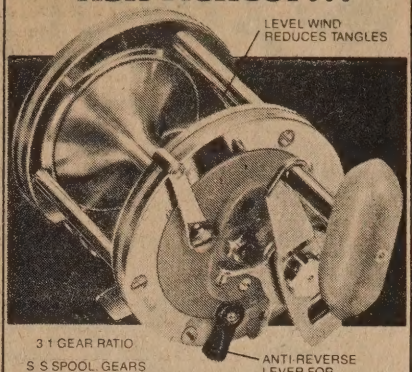

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CLUB NEWS

SEAFORD SQUADRON ANGLERS KIDS' FISHING TRIP

The Squadron Anglers of Seaford had their fourth annual Fishing Trip for the boys and girls of St. Christopher's home in Sea Cliff.

This trip was made possible through the generosity of Captain Arnold Rydberg of the 55-foot charter boat "Atlantic." His son, Jim, was the mate.

There were 23 children, ranging from 5 to 13 years of age, and nine supervisors from St. Christopher's. In addition, a team of Squadron Anglers provided the fishing help: Ed Tomczyk, Allen Weiss, Dick Rath and his son Bob, and Past President Fred Dombo and his son, Freddy.

The weather was beautiful and the fluke kept coming over the rail all day, and snappers were plentiful. The children returned to St. Christopher's with more than 50 keepers ready for the oven.

Bait was donated by Lou Stalker and Richie Keane of the Charvin Fishing Station. Rods and reels were provided by Bob Kay, Dockmaster of the Freeport Boatmen's Association, of which Captain Rydberg is a member.

In addition, each child received a windbreaker jacket from Mr. Jim Burke, President of Team Products, Inc., and candy was provided by Peter Paul, Inc.

A wonderful day was had by all, especially the children. A day well spent, to say the least.

MONTAUK FULL MOON BASS TOURNAMENT

The Montauk Marine Basin wants to find the Best Bass Fisherman during the October Full Moon Bass Tournament scheduled for October 13-15, 1978. Fishing begins Friday, 6 PM, to 6 AM Saturday, for the first twelve-hour fishing period. Saturday, Oct. 14, 6 AM to 6 PM for the second fishing period. Saturday 6 PM to Sunday, October 15, 6 AM, third period and the final twelve-hour period being Sunday, 6 AM to 6 PM. There are a total of four twelve-hour fishing periods with prizes and trophies for each period and an overall winner.

The entry fee is $10 per angler with a special category for surfcasting; hook and line, no harpooning. All anglers must be registered before fishing. The $10 fee is for 48 hours fishing time, beginning Friday, October 13, 6 PM and ending Sunday, October 15, 6 PM. All eligible fish must be weighed on one scale at the Montauk Marine Basin dock by the weighmaster. The night watchman will accept fish after hours to be ticketed and stored in the cooler until the weighmaster is available to weight the fish. IGFA rules apply.

The Bass and Blues Blitz weekly fishing contest at the Montauk Marine Basin will begin Monday, October 2, and end Friday, December 1, 1978. Weekly winners receive an engraved plaque and the chance to win an impressive trophy presented to the overall winner in each category. A one-time entry fee of $1 entitles the angler to compete in the weekly contest for the two-month period.

Anglers may register for the Full Moon Bass Tournament and the Bass and Blues Blitz at the front desk of the main building at the Montauk Marine Basin, West Lake Drive, Montauk, New York.

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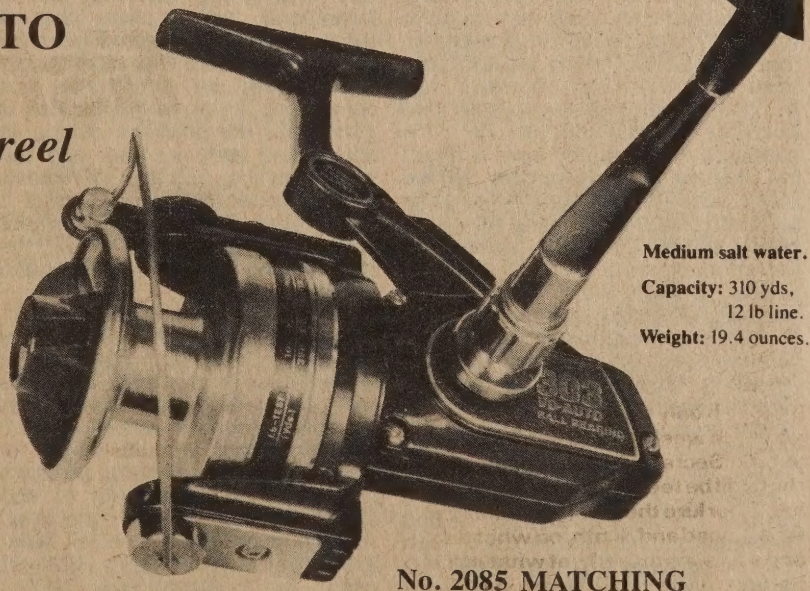

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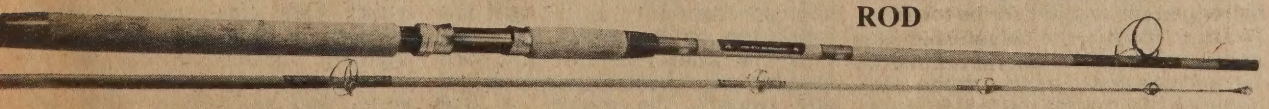

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FISH TALK LARGEMOUTH BASS

with Dr. William A. Muller *(Micropterus salmoides)*

NUMBER ONE U.S. GAME FISH! The fall is a great time to catch largemouth bass on Long Island, and so we thought that it would be a good time to discuss this fish which ranks as the number one game fish in the United States. More words are written about and more money is spent each year on the black bass than any other fish. Places like Lake Ronkonkoma and the watershed reservoirs just north of New York City have produced some impressive largemouths.

REALLY A SUNFISH! Don't let a largemouth fanatic hear you say that, but that's what they really are. Common names of fish really have a way of running afoul of their heritage. We call them "white perch," but they are actually sea bass and we call them tuna, but they are mackerel. In spite of this, most anglers continue to refer to this fish as either black bass, bucketmouth, largemouth, or largemouth bass.

FAMILY CENTRARCHIDAE: THE SUNFISHES. The members of this group have many features in common. Although most members of the group are less than six inches long, the largemouth and the smallmouth basses are noticeable exceptions. Members of this family have comb-like margins on their scales and consequently they seem very rough to the touch. The dorsal fin is fused so that the spiny rays and the soft rays meet. The largemouth, however, has a distinct notch between the two portions of the dorsal fin. All members of the family have a broad tail and are good swimmers. Unlike many saltwater fish which lay their eggs and deposit their milt indiscriminantly in the ocean, the largemouth and all members of the sunfish family display a high level of spawning behavior. The male makes a nest that is circular and slightly depressed. He removes all of the surface silt revealing the clean sand underneath. The male will guard the nest and the newly-hatched young. The family is divided into three groups: the black basses, the crappies, and the sunfish.

RANGE. The natural range of this species is the Continental United States and southern Canada. Although they do not naturally occur in all the states, they have been artificially introduced where they did not formerly occur. Today, the largemouth has even been introduced in Hawaii where it is doing nicely, thank you. Because this species has proven to be such a popular game fish in the United States, other countries have stocked the species in their freshwater lakes.

CHARACTERISTICS. Many beginning fishermen understandably have difficulty distinguishing between the smallmouth and the largemouth. The confusion is the result of similar coloration, habitat, behavior, and anatomy. The nitty-gritty test is the mouth. In the largemouth, the rear mouth margin extends behind the eye. Thus, the largemouth has a cavernous maw and can generate tremendous suction when it flails its gills covers. As a matter of fact, this is how the largemouth attacks its prey. Unlike other predators which may actively charge after prey, the largemouth prefers to hold a position near weeds, bottom structure, caves, etc. When prey wanders by, it will dart out and suck it in very quickly. If it misses, it will go back to its original position. That's why many experienced black bass fishermen will allow a lure to sit and then twitch it, rather than retrieve it after a missed strike. Also they will cast to a spot that has produced a missed strike again and again. Color varies with conditions, but is generally greenish with a dark stripe running from behind the gill covers to the base of the tail. The factors that affect color include the age of the fish, the size of the fish, the water temperature, and the chemistry of the water.

HABITAT. Some freshwater predators like strong currents, but the largemouth prefers large lakes and the quiet parts of streams and rivers. Large lakes afford them the opportunity to seek out comfortable water conditions. As a result, the fish can move into the shallows during late spring and early summer and then, after spawning, will take up residence in the deeper, cooler portions of the lake. Today, fishermen use temperature and oxygen meters to help them find feeding largemouths throughout the year.

SIZE. The average size for a largemouth is about one-and-a-half pounds, although the fish have the potential to grow much larger than that. Before largemouths were introduced into southern waters where the growing season is much longer, and before new natural habitat lakes were discovered, a largemouth of about five to eight pounds was considered a real whopper. Today, a black bass of that size is still worth bragging about, but it doesn't even begin to approach the record. In the past few years, the world's record for largemouth has fallen repeatedly and each time we ask ourselves, can they get any bigger? The answer to that question is a simple yes. The southern habitats offer a long growing season and abundant baits of many kinds, and frequently the largemouths find themselves to be the only predator in town! Well, anyway, the bottom line of the story is that enough fish in the twenty pound class have been taken during the last half-dozen years to lead one to believe that a thirty pound largemouth is just around the corner.

DIFFERENT SUB-SPECIES? The remarkable difference in the size potential of the black bass taken from southern waters compared to those from northern waters caused scientists to scratch their heads and wonder if there wasn't more to this than simply the length of the growing season. After some studies, many scientists believe that the southern fish is actually a sub-species. This conclusion is based mainly on a difference in scale counts between the two. The final proof will come when comparative studies of the blood chemistry of the two forms is complete.

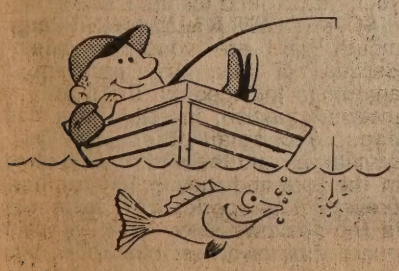
SPAWNING. The timing of spawning coincides with water temperature, not necessarily with season. Therefore, in southern waters the fish spawn in late winter and early spring, whereas up north they spawn during late spring and early summer. As we indicated earlier, the male assumes the bulk of the fatherly and motherly responsibilities in this group of fishes and the black bass is no exception. The male selects an appropriate spawning site and fans away the surface sediment. Then he will make a circular depression and attempt to entice a ripe female into the nest. If he cannot entice a female, he may drive her into the nest. The female will deposit her eggs and the male will then cover them with milt. A small female will lay about 2000 eggs, but a large one will deposit as many as 30,000 eggs! The female leaves immediately after spawning is complete. The male, however, remains to fan the nest and drive away predators. His fanning will prevent silt from settling on the nest and keep the eggs fungi free. When the eggs hatch, he will guard them and as they begin to swim about freely he will herd them keeping them close to the nest and his supervision. After about two to three weeks—and occasionally longer—the school of young bass will break up and it is at this time that the male abandons his fatherly duties and the young must fend for themselves.

SOMETIMES A NUISANCE! Large mouth bass are voracious eaters. Because of this, they eat almost anything. Included in the diet are insects, grayfish, invertebrates, fish eggs, and small fish. They will sometimes raid the nest of other fish in the lake and they will sometimes prevent other species from spawning in the shallows since they jealously guard their own nest territories. We have learned the hard way that we

must be very careful where and how we introduce the largemouth, for without the exercise of such care, they have the potential to force other fish out of some lakes. Because they are hardy, prolific, and aggressive they do not seem to suffer from heavy fishing pressure. In fact, high harvests from sportsmen are believed to prevent stunting that can otherwise occur from overcrowding.

SPORTSMEN USE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE FISH TO CATCH THEM. Angling is often referred to as scientific. Actually, how precise a fisherman is about his sport depends upon many factors. Thus, the level of science varies from intricate to almost non-existence. Traditionally, freshwater fishermen approach their sport with science, perhaps because in the last hundred years or so it has become harder and harder to catch freshwater fish, what with expanding populations of humans, pollution, and heavy fishing pressure. The freshwater black bass fisherman is no exception and because of the scientific approach, structure fishing was born. The sportsmen know that black bass are curious, that they have a varied diet, and that they like to strike from ambush. As a result, sportsmen took it to the bass. Bright colored plastic lures that imitate worms, grubs, insects, and fish have become very popular with black bass, as well as with black bass fishermen. Presenting these artificials in proximity to rugged bottom structure is no simple task and, of course, hang-ups and lost rigs were an inevitable consequence. But the largemouth fanatic fought back and found ways to make each and every last one of those lures in weedless form.

WHY SO POPULAR? Believe it or not, there are many parallels between the allure of striped bass fishing and black bass fishing. First, the fish come in many sizes and a fisherman never knows what size fish he may tangle with next time. Second, the largemouth is elusive. You can have him all doped out on one day, only to find that all your knowledge disappears like steam from your mouth on a cold winter's day. Third, the bass is a determined fighter and although it lacks the strength of a striper to put on a long extended run, largemouths like to jump and jump and jump. Aerial fighting tactics make the fish an exciting opponent. Last, but not least, the largemouth is part of a fishing mystique that claims the imagination of fishermen as well as their time and money.



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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Spring Stock Assessments Provide Mostly Good News

Whiting: The recently issued summary of stock assessments from the Woods Hole Laboratory of the National Marine Fisheries Service contains good news for most fishermen. As noted in a previous column, the Southern New England/Middle Atlantic stock of whiting (silver hake) appears to be in very good shape. The Age 2 or more stock biomass at the beginning of the year was estimated at 310,000 tons—the highest since 1966. This compares to a low point in 1971 (when the species was under intense pressure from the foreign fleets) of 63,400 tons. The 1976 year class was the strongest since 1964, and the 1974 and 1977 year classes were also excellent. The last two winters have provided fine whiting fishing in the New York Bight area, and there is every reason to expect a continuation of that action this season. This is one area in which the restrictions imposed on foreign fleets as a result of the 200 Mile Limit law has made a dramatic difference.

Ling: The lowly ling (red hake) receives little praise, but fills a lot of fish bags throughout the year. A little soft in warm weather, the ling is, nevertheless, a good eating fish when properly handled. This species also suffered from foreign overfishing and has been slower to recover than the whiting. The Age 2-plus stock biomass declined from 125,000 tons in 1971 to only 26,500 tons in 1976. Since then it has increased to 44,000 tons this year. Best of all, the 1977 year class is estimated to be the strongest since 1970. With foreign catches being held at very minimal levels, ling fishing should improve sharply in the next few years.

Fluke: The data on fluke is a little sketchy, but the scientists feel they are in good shape. The bottom trawl survey catch-per-tow indices indicate that stock size has increased steadily since a low in 1970. However, preliminary reports for the spring show a twenty percent decline in commercial catches, which would correspond to the rough estimate I'd make of the decline in angling catches. The latter is difficult to pin down, as catches may be way off in one area and still good in others. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is aware of the signs of domestic overfishing on this stock and has funded a State/Federal program which is charged with coming up with a management plan in the next couple of years. The problem here is the mixed nature of the fishery. Much, if not most, of the commercial catch is made outside of three miles—therefore falling within Council jurisdiction. However, practically the entire sport catch comes from State waters. Since the recreational catch (estimated at an average of 12,500 tons per year) is considerably higher than the commercial haul (averaging about 8,500 tons), a management plan can succeed only if the states cooperate. Exceptionally high prices have led to a great expansion of the winter fishery in North Carolina, and even the smallest fish are now retained. Hopefully, this concept in developing a management plan will prove to be workable. If not, lean years may be facing us once again—just as was the case in the Sixties.

Winter Flounder: The data on winter founder is also somewhat incomplete. Here again, there's a problem in estimating recreational catch. The 1974 anglers survey came up with a figure of 18,884 tons, which compares to the commercial catch in 1977 of 10,551 tons (the highest since 1971). Though the scientists feel that abundance is increasing, the stocks remain well below the levels of the 1960s.

Porgy: Commercial catches of porgies (scup) have increased steadily from 4,000 tons in 1971 to 8,500 tons in 1977. This is still far below the 18,000-20,000 ton catches made in Fifties. The angling catch is estimated at thirty percent of the commercial haul. The 200 Mile law has frozen out the foreigners who used to make significant incidental catches of this species. From 1,783 tons in 1973 (at least that's what was reported!), they are down to just 10 tons in 1977. The bottom trawl survey has shown a general increasing trend in abundance in the southern New England area since 1971, while the Mid-Atlantic survey has been inconclusive. Angling observation would seem to back up the theory that the stocks are in much better shape to the east. The fine porgy fishing at Montauk is a case in point.

Weakfish: The commercial catch of weakfish has increased dramatically from 1,338 tons in 1967 to 9,249 tons in 1976. Last year it slipped back slightly to 8,437 tons. Though the resurgence of weakfish has been amazing, the commercial catch is well below the 19,000 tons landed in 1945. Recreational catch is probably about equal to the commercial take. Though the average length of weakfish taken during inshore surveys has increased (a possible indication of poor recruitment), a good 1976 year class was observed. What the report doesn't note is the tremendous abundance of baby weakfish in Delaware Bay this summer. Hopefully, that will provide a shot in the arm to a fishery that seems to be slowly declining. The almost complete disappearance of weakfish north of Cape Hatteras in the Fifties and Sixties should have provided the impetus for conservation measures when the fish finally staged their miraculous comeback. Unfortunately, that is not the case. The States, in fact, have failed to do anything to limit the intense exploitation of this valuable species or prevent the waste that is inherent when huge catches of this soft-meated fish are made. No protection is even afforded the highly vulnerable spawning weakfish that enter the bays each spring. The reasons for the disappearance of weakfish in previous decades are unclear, but we should have enough sense at this point to at least make some effort to control the catch of spawning fish and prevent waste.

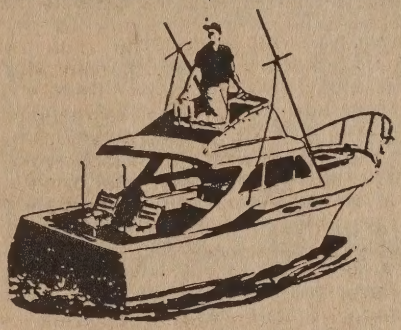
Bluefish: There is every indication that bluefish stocks are in fine shape. Commercial catches are fairly stable (averaging 3,469 tons from 1974-77), but this is no indication, since about ninety-six percent of the catch is made by recreational fishermen. Reports from Georges Banks this summer indicates that record numbers of bluefish have pushed into the famed cold water fisheries (cod, haddock, pollack, etc.) grounds east of Cape Cod. Until recently, bluefish were rare so far offshore and to the north. The sand eel population explosion appears to provide the bluefish with an ideal source of virtually unlimited food. Unless there is a dramatic change (such as an intense commercial fishery for export, or a devastating disease), there is no reason to expect any significant downward trend in bluefish abundance during the next several years. Nevertheless, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is continuing work on its management plan for this species. Once even a "bare bones" management plan is in effect, amending it to deal with a sudden change in the situation will be a relatively simple task. Fact finding hearings on bluefish will be held by the Council later this fall.

Cod: Of major concern to many commercial fishermen is the status of the cod stocks. With foreign pressure off the stocks, and a good year class in 1975, the cod has staged a significant rally in New England waters—though we've seen little of the improvement in the mid-Atlantic. Commercial catches in 1977 totaled 19,750 tons, a thirty-six percent increase over the previous year and the highest domestic catch since 1946! This was in spite of regulations imposed by the New England Council to hold down the catch. Unfortunately, most of this effort falls on that strong 1975 year class which could sustain the fishery

well into the future if not overharvested. Some fifty-four percent of the commercial catch last year was on that one year class. Recruitment since then has been the lowest ever observed in the autumn trawl survey. Though stock biomass is increasing as the 1975 class puts on weight, the future of this fishery looks poor unless the New England Council really put a cap on overfishing. This is especially true in our area, as we get the overflow of southern New England populations and can't expect to do well unless there is an abundance of fish in that area.

Herring: In 1977 there was an almost complete failure of the herring fishery on George Bank. Foreign vessels had an allocation at that time (over the protest of the Councils), but could catch only 301 tons during the September-October season. The U.S. catch from Georges Bank-Southern New England was a minimal 361 tons. Good year classes from the early Seventies have been fished out, but there is some indication that recent year classes will help right the present disastrous situation. Herring is a very important forage fish, but, fortunately, most other forage species are in good shape and the lack of herring shouldn't prove to be a big problem in the ecosystem. There is even some speculation that the sand eel may be providing too much competition for the herring in the larval states.

Mackerel: Exploitation of this species has dropped sharply since the foreign fishery was stopped this year. The foreigners are allowed 1200 metric tons under both the PMP and the proposed FMP. This is intended as by-catch in other fisheries, and very definitely restricts those fisheries. If the foreigners exceed their by-catch of any species, their fishery is closed and they must leave our waters. This happened to the Bulgarians this year almost as soon as they got started. Stock news on the mackerel is not good. The biomass of Age 1 plus fish has declined steadily from 2,400,000 tons in 1969 to a low of 517,000 tons in 1978. Year classes for the three years prior to this one were poor, but word from Cape Cod is that the harbors are loaded with tinker mackerel; hopefully an indication that this year's spawning was a success.



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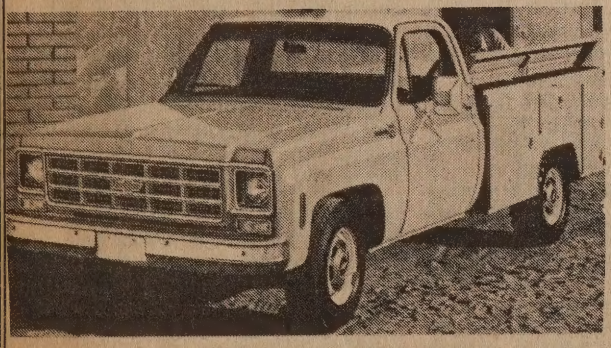

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OLD TIMERS' CORNER

"The way it was..." with Matt Ahern

COD FISHING

Just how good was fishing in the "old days?" It is an interesting question to be sure, one often asked by today's fishermen. The answers received depend much on the whim of the moment. I have yet to hear any but glowing reports. We old-timers refrain from dishonoring our cherished memories, and I'm sure you won't blame us for that. But as the saying goes, it wasn't all beer and skittles, for we had our poor days, too. Or perhaps in justification I should call them slow days; they really weren't poor in the true sense of the word.

I don't remember ever being skunked when going for cod, fluke, or what have you—although I recall many days when I failed to catch as many fish as conditions led me to expect I would. As today, cod were always a problem, and I sometimes think when Montauk codfishing gets going into high gear, it is actually better than we enjoyed in the old days. Not that we didn't have occasional catches which even by the standards of those days were considered outstanding. I suppose if we had had the advantage of today's technological advancements in tackle, our codfishing would have been much improved, for certainly the fish were available.

Our cod sticks were of several varieties, either double-enamel split bamboo (one rod built over the core of another), and lancewood or bathbara (and I hope I have the latter spelling correct—it's been a long time since I've seen that word in print) became brittle after much use. It wasn't unusual to have these rods eventually break near the ferrule under the stress of an outsized fish.

Split bamboo rods stood the gaff pretty well if you remembered to give them a coat of good grade spar varnish several times a year, depending upon the amount of use they were given. It was disastrous to allow saltwater to work its insidious way into open nicks and cracks.

Fellows who couldn't afford one of these rods—and I was one—had little problems, though. We just finagled a rejected pool cue and converted it to our use. These, being of straight-grained hickory, were pretty rugged as you can well imagine. No matter how large, I never saw a cod break a hickory pool cue rod.

The old standby of many fishermen in those days was the handline. I used one for a long time before I was affluent enough to own a good rod. For two bits, I could purchase a 100 yard hank of heavy tarred line, and I decked many a cod with this. In fact, it was far easier for experienced fishermen to catch cod with handlines than it was with the dead, insensitive rods of those days. But it wasn't much sport, and as soon as I could, I bought a rod and gladly gave up the handline.

Most reels in use those days were either four-and-a-half, five, or six inch wooden sidewinders, with an occasional one of Bakelite. There were multiplying reels in use, too, but the sidewinders had the edge. The Cadillac of multiplying reels was manufactured by Edward vom Hofe and Company. To own a vom Hofe truly made you a man of distinction. They haven't been manufactured in years and if you have one in good condition, hold on to it. They are worth a pretty penny today.

Sidewinders did the job well, but when an outsized cod was hooked, the fisherman had to know just how much line to give the pounding fish. This was accomplished by palm pressure against the reel's edges and when a fisherman knew how to do it, that cod was going nowhere but on deck. If he didn't, it was goodbye cod if it was large. As multiplying reels improved, fewer and fewer sidewinders were seen. I still have two, which I wouldn't part with for the world.

Fishing line was another thing. The only good available stuff was made of Irish linen. It was exceptionally strong when wet—provided you remembered to wash it in fresh water after each use. If you failed to do this, it didn't last too long and often parted at the most crucial times. Most fellows used white Irish linen; there was some green-dyed stuff around, but for some reason it was never very popular. I don't know why, for it certainly blended nicely with the water.

Cod are acknowledged to be spooky at times and I often wonder how we managed so well with a white line that stood out like a sore thumb; but we did and fishermen insisted upon using it. For strength and durability you couldn't beat a brand called "Joe Jefferson," named, I believe, after a famous stage actor in the long ago. (He was also probably a fisherman.)

But for a kid, the cost of a 100 yard spool of Joe Jefferson was plenty. If I recall correctly, the price was $1.25 for twelve thread line. This was thirty-six pound test, each strand testing out to three pounds when dry. This is what I and most other fishermen used. That was a lot of money those days when party boat fares for kids was one buck, and two for grown-ups. But I solved that vexing problem.

My father had been a horseshoer all his life and that meant he knew a few saddle and harness makers. It was no problem for me to latch onto a cone of heavily waxed linen thread from these good natured craftsmen. There was only one hitch: this stuff wasn't braided and whenever it fouled around someone's line, hooks were sure to pierce the strands and cause much difficulty in separating. Most times a knife was the only solution and I went through a lot of this linen line, plus sinkers and hooks tossed overboard in anger by irate fishermen. I was known during codfishing time as "that damn kid with the lousy line."

The average cod catch per fisherman those days varied just as much as it does today. A good catch was a dozen or more, and it was quite common. A poor day's catch might produce anywhere from two to six fish. The big difference from today was the fact that the old-timer knew he would have some measure of success. As I said, I can't remember ever being skunked.

The peculiar thing, however, is that there are many more larger cod being caught today than back in those days. True, we didn't see many two and three pound fish, but neither did we see many forty pounders. I did see a sixty-three pound cod once, but that's a story for another article. The average cod we caught weighed between eight and ten pounds; the pool fish usually around twenty. The reason for today's increase in larger cod I believe is due to the use of monofilament line. There's nothing like it for cod.

Weather conditions have always affected codfishing to a great extent. Fishermen who have been around awhile will agree that a northwest wind is more likely to produce cod than one from the east or northeast.

Notice the qualifier: "more likely," for I want to tell you about the day in late March, 1930, when an east wind produced a record catch of cod for us. It was a freak happening; therefore, I don't want you to think anything like this—or even near this—was a common occurrence. I just want to call to your attention how many cod were available in the New York Bight when conditions were right.

I was mate on the Rose R II out of Canarsie those days, learning the game as I went along. On this particular day, the weather was so bad not a soul showed up to go fishing. Gusty winds and rain from the east gave us what we thought for sure would be a free day. About eight o'clock, just as we were ready to pack it in, along came five fishermen dying to go out fishing. "Please, Cap," they begged. "We've come all the way from New Jersey. Take us out."

At that time, few fishermen had cars. These fellows had come to Canarsie via ferry, subway, and trolley. It had taken them hours and

Lord only knows when they left home. It took five passengers to cover expenses in those days and we now had that, but the Captain was unwilling to leave. He told them it was useless as all they'd get were a few ling and probably a good case of seasickness. He didn't want to take their money for this kind of fishing. Besides, all we had for bait was a half pail of smelly conch left over from the weekend's blackfishing. The weather was so bad we knew the Roxsbury bait man from whom we got our skimmer would never expect us and would, therefore, be hard to locate, so outside of that conch, that was all the bait we had.

Well, those fellows pleaded so eloquently, the skipper gave in. "We'll go over to Ambrose Lightship," he told me as I stood in the pilot house sorting out sinkers. "We'll get a few ling and that will do it. It'll be an easy day."

On the way through Rockaway Inlet, the rain ceased, and by the time we passed the bell buoy, the wind lessened. When we reached Ambrose it wasn't too bad, but there was still a good sea on. To anchor would have made those five passengers seasick in minutes. As the wind continued to lay down as the minutes passed, we decided to drift.

We didn't get a ling that day. What we got were cod, and more cod. We must have been drifting at the same rate those cod were swimming along under us. We just couldn't drift out of them. That school must have been enormous. The fish weren't large, averaging about six to eight pounds, with an occasional twelve pounder, or so.

The skipper worked four handlines, two on each side of the boat. His cod were kept separately and when we quit, he had decked 105. There was no need to hook the fish. They just stuck right on and all he did was swing them aboard—we didn't even bother to use the gaff. One of those passengers who had never fished saltwater in his life, finished up with thirty-nine or forty-nine cod. I no longer recall the exact number.

We returned about 3PM. The wind had changed in the meantime and a northwest wind cleared the sky so that the sun popped out as we entered the bay. On the wharf were dozens of spectators, waiting around to see what the only boat out had gotten. Pandemonium broke loose. None had ever seen that many cod at one time. We couldn't even walk the deck unless we first pushed cod aside. We gave a great many of the fish away and marketed the rest.

Word quickly got around about this fantastic fishing and the next day we had so many fishermen on board it looked like a fluke trip on the Fourth of July. Of course we returned to Ambrose, but the skipper knew our chances of repeating were slim. He was right, too. The other mate I worked with made a cast off the bow and immediately came up with a double-header. But that was it. No more cod. We settled for those day-savers: ling.

Such is but one example of codfishing as I remember it in the old days.

Incidentally, I plan on writing more of these "old-timer" articles and if you are interested in knowing how fluke fishing, blackfish, etc., was in those days, drop me a line at my home: 20 Dogwood Road, Hampton Bays, N.Y. 11946. I'll be glad to hear from you and we'll kick it around a bit.

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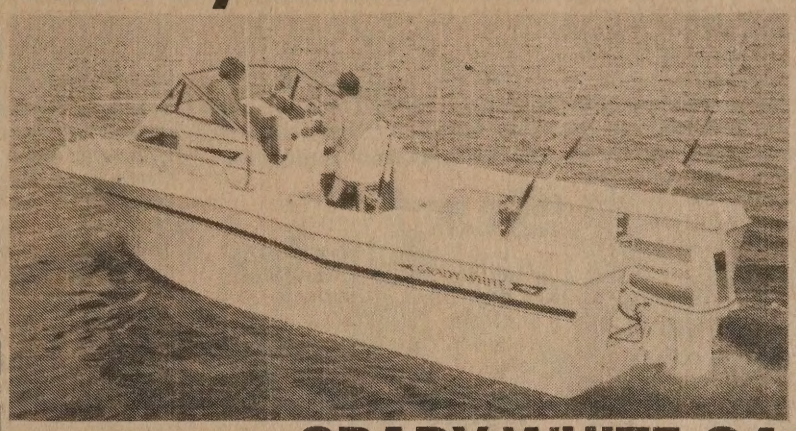

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Surf Side with Gerald Hahn

NORTH & SOUTH SHORE BLACKFISH

One day, while fishing a small inlet leading to a creek off Peconic Bay, a quiet spot where I usually catch flounders, porgies, and an occasional school-sized weakfish or blue, I had two surprises. The first was a six pound weakfish that took off on a beautiful run against light tackle, then thrashed about on the surface for what seemed ages before my son climbed down the pilings and netted it for me. Nothing like it, I thought. Soon after, I had another strong hit; but as I began reeling in, I noticed momentarily a short, stout blackfish. It weighed about the same as the weakfish. Suddenly the fish dove straight down to the pilings, and try as I might, it would not budge. With a final strain, I heard that ominous twang known to every fisherman who has experienced similar frustrating moments: the line snapped. No fancy runs, no surface antics for the blackfish—just power. Try catching one from a rock jetty or bridge or even from a beach, and you will see what I mean. Stronger than a weakfish, more stubborn than a bass, perhaps only second to the power of a bluefish, the black is one of the most underrated fish in our waters—a bottom fish yet.

The blackfish or tautog is a member of the wrasse family, possessed of a stout, powerful body, a formidable set of human-like front teeth, a thick slippery hide with deeply embedded scales, and a small but thick-lipped mouth—not the prettiest fish. Its teeth are not for biting, but for grasping and tearing mollusks and crustaceans—favorite blackfish prey. Set back in the throat are a pair of rock-hard, pebbly surfaced crushers for shearing and pulverizing shellfish into digestible sizes. For these anatomical peculiarities, a blackfish strikes in a significant way, somewhat like its cousin the bergall, with whom it is often found. The first signal is a staccato of taps on your line, then a pause as the fish works the bait to its crushers; followed by a resounding thud. Experienced anglers try to strike the fish between these two stages.

Aside from its stamina, another obstacle to catching a black is its environment. As stated, blackfish feed primarily on mussels, barnacles, crabs, shrimp, and lobsters—creatures that live in rocky areas. On the north shore, any boulders in the water or mussel beds are likely to hold concentrations of blackfish, and as you may know, such areas create snagging problems. On the south shore, it is worse because you have to fish from treacherous spots, rock jetties or high bridges, if you expect to locate them. Therefore, in all cases, tackle has to be on the heavy side, especially in the fall when larger fish—five to ten pounds—will be in. A stiffish seven to eight foot conventional rod and matching reel is best for jetty or bridge fishing. For the north shore beaches, select a nine foot surf rod, conventional or spinning. Consider twenty pound test a minimum for all these places.

The rig should consist of a Virginia hook, sizes four to six, snelled on a twelve inch leader of at least thirty pound test. Also known as a "blackfish hook," it has a short bite suited to the fish's small mouth and a strong point and shank, not likely to straighten under rough conditions. However, this hook has a tendency to become dull and a sharpening stone should be part of your gear. Sinkers vary according to the type of fishing: on the north shore, one or two ounce banks are adequate most days; at south shore inlets, four ounces or more will be necessary to hold bottom. A black barrel swivel and a twelve inch length of thirty pound test mono is better for the rig than a direct connection to the main line.

I expect to lose rigs when blackfishing, but I do not want to lose all my fishing line, as well. Improved clinch knots on the swivel will hold the largest fish and, when snagged, will break at the rig, not the top guide. Tie a dropper loop about three to six inches above the sinker for the snelled hook and an end loop for the sinker. For jetty fishing, I prepare two dozen rigs in advance; for south shore bridges and north shore beaches, about a dozen. My best day for blackfish was in October, 1975 at Shinnecock Inlet: twenty-three blacks. The price? Fifteen rigs.

Some fishermen use two-hook rigs, tied hi-lo fashion or in tandem; but I find they tend to foul on the bottom more than single hook rigs. Besides, double-headers are rare when blackfishing. I also prefer a strong connection for the sinker rather than a "weak line." If the rig is going to snag at the jetties, I do not want the hook floating to the surface whenever I lose a sinker—a frequent occurrence with weak lines. All or nothing. On the north shore, most snags occur not on the rocks, but on a spongy seaweed attached to the rocks. Here, I let out line, step back, and point the rod directly at the line. The drag is set lightly. Then I lock the reel and while pointing the rod this way, a gentle tug usually frees the rig. No exploding rods.

In the spring, soft baits, worms or clams, will often work best. Fish are smaller and their mouths tender after a long winter hibernation. But in the fall, when real blackfishing begins, the best baits are crabs—green or fiddlers. Green crabs usually attract large blackfish. Cut one in half or quarter it, if it is large. Break off the carapace and all claws. Insert the hook through any socket and exit through another, exposing the tip a little. Equally large specimens are often caught on fiddler crabs, remarkable little creatures about the size of your thumbnail. The males have the large "fiddler" claw and are larger than the females. Most anglers break off the large claw and hook the crab through this socket. I prefer to leave the crab intact and hook it, instead, through the rear of the carapace, exposing the point but not the barb. This allows the fiddler to wriggle its claws freely, increasing its visibility. Sometimes it may grab hold of something on the bottom, but this can be overcome by using two or three on a hook—a highly effective method.

While many fishermen use care when hooking a fiddler crab, they often select them from the box indiscriminantly. The fiddler crab has a "biological clock" which causes it to change color. At night, it turns lighter and during the day, darker. Furthermore, it is darkest at low tide when it can scurry through the mud for food. At high tide, it becomes lighter again. Even when transported to bait shops (often from warmer regions) the chameleon- like fiddler continues to change colors according to the tides of its origin. A good idea, then, is to select them not only by size but by color, using the lightest ones for maximum visibility on dark mussel beds or rocks.

Fishing methods vary on the north and south shores. On north shore beaches, distance casting is often necessary to reach the mussel beds or partially submerged boulders on the Sound. If nothing happens within a half hour, try moving about fifty feet or to the next cluster of rocks. Blackfish often congregate in one area here and scouting becomes necessary before you find them. On south shore jetties and inlets, however, long range casts are of little importance. Blackfish will be feeding almost under your feet. Cast as close to the rocks as you dare, keep the line taut, and when the telltale taps occur, a solid lift of the rod will set the hook; but you must keep the rod high to prevent the fish from cutting you off on the rocks. Don't forget to bring a sack or bucket along for this kind of fishing. Most blackfish are lost **after** they are brought onto the rocks. Bridge fishing is similar to jetty fishing. Here, too, work near the bridge supports rather than far away. Any large fish can be walked to the nearest shore and beached.

Generally, the best blackfishing time on both shores occurs around high tide; but at the jetties, I find that the beginning of the flood, even the beginning of the ebb, is best. Near the peak of the incoming tide, the water level is too high and many rocks become submerged, forcing you to step back and cast around more obstacles.

The north shore usually offers greater size; the south shore, greater numbers. Some areas where I have caught many blackfish, are as follows:

North Shore: Northport from Lilco to Crab Meadow Beach; Mt. Sinai to Rocky Point, and Herodl Point to east

(Continued on page 36.)

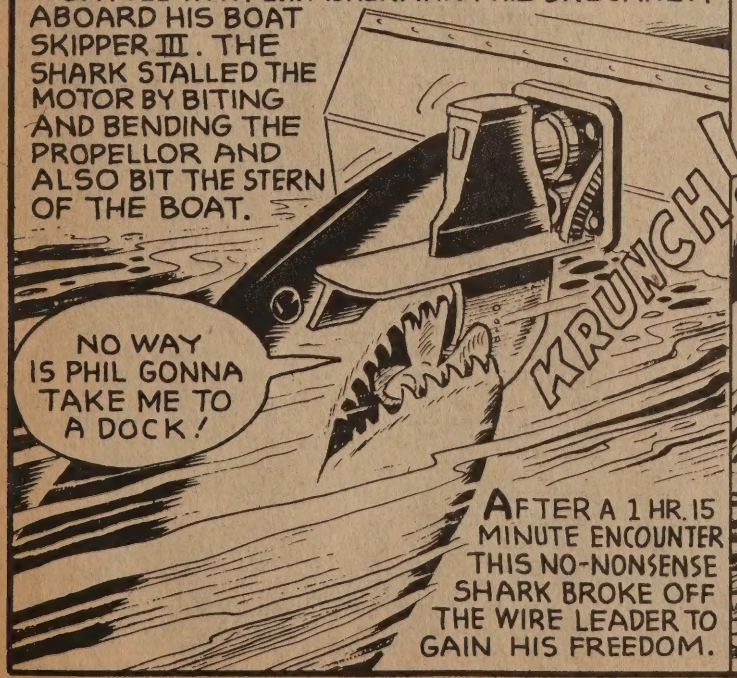
MOBS MASSACRE FISH

IT WAS A MASSACRE AT BANGOR, MAINE WHEN THE ATLANTIC SALMON MADE THEIR FIRST RUN IN 30 YEARS UP THE PENOBSCOT RIVER THAT GOES THROUGH TOWN. THEY WERE GREETED WITH BOWS AND ARROWS, BASEBALL BATS, ROCKS AND GANG HOOKS. *SPORTFISHING HAD TO BE BANNED FOR 90 DAYS!*

SPECTATORS AT THE AUGUST FREEPORT FISHING FESTIVAL HACKED AND MUTILATED JOE DOMIANO'S WINNING 585 LB. MAKO SHARK, REPORTS JEFF SCHNEIDER OF *"FISH UNLIMITED TAXIDERMY"* WHO IS MOUNTING THE SHARK'S HEAD MINUS 6 TEETH BROKEN OFF BY THE UNRULY CROWD.

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A SHARK THAT WON HIS FIGHT WAS A BIG MAKO ESTIMATED AT 500-1000 LBS. IN A BATTLE WITH L.I. FISHERMAN PHIL BRUCKNER ABOARD HIS BOAT SKIPPER III. THE SHARK STALLED THE MOTOR BY BITING AND BENDING THE PROPELLOR AND ALSO BIT THE STERN OF THE BOAT.



AFTER A 1 HR. 15 MINUTE ENCOUNTER THIS NO-NONSENSE SHARK BROKE OFF THE WIRE LEADER TO GAIN HIS FREEDOM.

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FALL SHEEPSHEAD BAY BLACKFISHING

by Bruce Sucher

The blackfish is not a very glamorous creature. There are no decals of this bucktoothed chunky fish to apply to the back of your beach buggy or car. They don't jump, make sizzling runs, and rarely will they hit an artificial; but these fish are difficult to find, difficult to hook and far from easy to land.

Aside from bulkheads, bridge pilings and piers, the majority of private boat owners wouldn't know where to begin to find the blackfish. They don't have the shore ranges or the C Lorans for finding the offshore bottom structure where these fish thrive. So the best way to make consistent catches is to go out on a party boat.

One of the yardsticks that professional captains can be measured by is their ability to produce blackfish. It requires extensive and accurate log book entries and a creative and experimental instinct in the search for new and productive fishing grounds. I can't think of any fishing port where the competition is more fierce than Brooklyn's Sheepshead Bay; but this competition produces fishermen and captains of the highest caliber. And the New York Bight is ideally suited for blackfish, as it is heavily dotted with artificial reefs, natural bottom structure and numerous shipwrecks. The recreational angler can take full advantage of these qualities by spending his time on a Sheepshead Bay blackfish boat.

These fish are not stupid. I learned that lesson as a skin diver and spear fisherman. At first, the fish were easy to spear and I would only take the largest of each school. But as the fish began to see their numbers diminishing, they became wary. And after that, only the most faultless stalk was successful and the largest members of the clan almost unattainable. And once attacked by Scuba divers, the sound of air hissing through a regulator was like an air raid siren to these fish. So don't think you can be a sloppy, inattentive angler and be a good blackfisherman as well: the two don't fit well together.

Tackle should be sturdy and dependable, but not necessarily expensive. The rod should be stiff and with a slight taper. The length is up to you, but I prefer a rod of about seven feet and it's conventional. The stiff tip is good for setting the hook in a tough set of gums, to absorb line stretch and, of course, as a lever for prying the fish away from line-cutting bottom structure in the first crucial seconds of the fight. The reel should be capable of withstanding abuse and of holding a hundred yards of good quality thirty pound mono. You notice I said nothing about a star drag. That's because the best blackfishermen I know use the old-fashioned sidewinder. But this old-fashioned single action reel has disadvantages, so if you're a beginner or moderately experienced, stick with a star drag reel and set it at just below the line's breaking strength. Now that's pretty severe advice and it deserves an explanation. Blackfish are incredibly strong. Their short, stocky bodies can be compared with a hydraulic jack and they're about as tough. When these fish are first hooked, they shift into passing gear and head for some rocky crevice. At this point, there is no finesse required, only brute strength—a contest of wills. If it's a big fish, you've got to haul him away from the bottom. If your drag slips too easily, then you can almost certainly say goodbye to fish and rigging. Of course, once your fish has succeeded in hanging you up, you can slack your line and hope the fish comes back out, but at this point your odds are not good.

Rigging should consist of one or two #4 Virginia pattern hooks on ten inch snells of forty pound leader. If you're losing a lot of tackle, then use one hook; if the bottom's not bad, then you can use two tied in tandem. Hook leaders can be tied directly to the line or use a quick rig to make the connection. Stay away from sinker clips and other hardware as they tend to do more harm than good. Sinkers should be of the bank or diamond variety and heavy enough to hold bottom. In the New York Bight that means a good supply of lead from five to ten ounces. I've heard of tying the sinker to the rig with light line so that if it gets snagged it can be broken off and the hooks are saved. But I feel you lose the opportunity to break the sinker out of the bottom and you'll probably lose more lead with this "weak link" system than you would otherwise. I've also seen spark plugs used as sinkers, but if you're fishing in a steep current or deep water, then stick with lead. You'll waste a lot of time taping this junk together and the money saved will not offset the fish you might have caught. Just bring plenty of spare rigging or a few extra bucks. Any boat that blackfishes is sure to have an ample supply of the necessities.

Now you're ready for a day on the water. The sun is just up and there's only a mild westerly breeze that breaks the mirrored surface of Sheepshead Bay. There are quite a few boats advertising blackfish, but you've done your homework and chosen the one that returned to its dock with superior catches. A good skipper will have numerous "pieces" that he will fish in any one day. Depending upon the captain's skill, he'll make a number of fairly short drops and skim the cream of nice fish from each. Of course, if the pace remains good he will stay put; but in blackfishing that rarely happens. The fish become savvy to their losses and it's time to give the spot a breather.

The boat pulls out and you watch the mate as he goes about his duties and passes out the bait. Large buckets of live green crabs, and square pieces of plywood to cut them on, and then smaller cans filled with fiddler crabs and skimmer clam. Your captain goes to some trouble and expense to obtain the best bait available.

You can clearly see the Jersey Highlands to your west and more importantly, you can feel the engines slow. You look to the captain as he watches the shore line and then shifts his gaze to the changing numbers of the Loran C. At a signal, the mate tosses over a marker buoy. Two anchors are used, and it seems like forever until the man has put his boat exactly where he wants it.

You've baited your hooks with strips of skimmer, but as soon as you touch bottom, you know you've made the wrong choice. The place is thick with bergalls and as the pecking stops you realize your hooks are cleaned. A few feet away is an old angler with a cigar stump in his jaw and a very nautical look about him. The type who looks like his underwear is starched with sea salt. He stabs his rod tip high and you watch it buck as the tautog pumps for cover. But this angler is sharp and very soon the four pound fish is lifted over the rail.

Not very subtly you watch his every move. He gingerly takes out a live green crab (dead crabs make inferior bait) and pulls off its claws. Then legs up, he splits it on a cutting board and carefully snakes the point of his hook through the hollow left by the claw. The point is then pushed through another leg opening. You do the same thing. Now you've read it a dozen times in The Long Island Fisherman. The peck-peck-pecking are bergalls; wait for the more substantial tug. But what do they know. You feel

another series of pecks and set the hook. You boat a beautiful two ounce bergall. And so the day will continue unless you can learn from your mistakes.

"One more time," you say to yourself and vow not to move the tip until you feel a real hit. The pecking continues, but mixed in you feel a different kind of rap, more like a sharp pull. You set the hook and this time you know it's a blackfish. With a great deal of effort you manage to keep the fish away from the rocks and then fight it to the top where a mate nets the five pound fish.

At the end of the day you have ten nice fish, but you compare your catch with the salty cigar smoker's and you feel inadequate—he has three times as many. Fear not, if you had spent as much time as he in developing that "touch," you would have done as well. The main thing in blackfishing is learning to differentiate between bergalls and your quarry. Ignoring bergall hits is like having an itch that only will power keeps you from scratching. If you're hooking these pests, then it's a sure sign you're doing something wrong. A good blackfisherman will only boat a few of these cunners in a full day's fishing. The inexperienced will catch little else.

Unless there's very little bergall life, then stay away from clam. It's the softest and easiest stolen, and rarely will it work as well as crab. Remember, I'm speaking about the New York Bight and Jersey Coast. I've seen green crabs put on hooks a half dozen different ways. The pros split the crab and just remove the pincers. Legs are left on, as well as the top shell. Some just remove the top shell after splitting and others remove claw, legs and shell and then split it right down the middle. Still another way is to take a whole crab and insert a hook into each claw hole. All methods work to a varying degree.

I let the number of bergalls indicate the way I bait my hook. If they're few, I'll remove legs and top shell and split the body. If they're thick and keeping bait on the hook is a problem, I'll do it the way the pros do. The more crab shell on the hook, the more trouble these little pests will have in stealing it. But all systems I've mentioned have one thing in common and that's the hook tip protrudes through a leg joint. In this way, it will be free to contact your blackfish and not have to bore through the crab shell before it does.

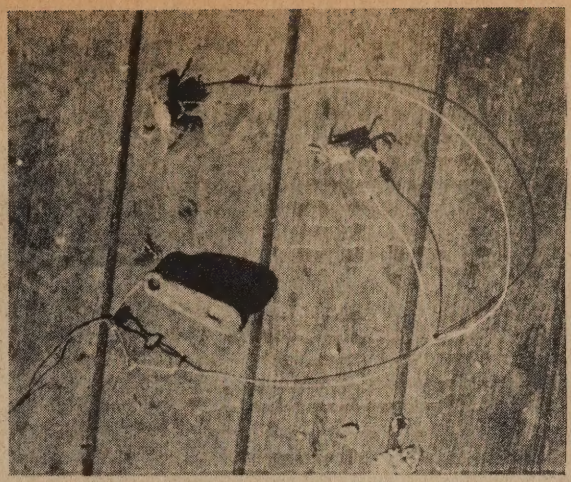
Fiddler crabs are a more delicate and vulnerable bait, but at times, they are more effective than the green crab. Chose the largest you can find and just break off the oversize claw. Insert your hook through the claw hole and thread it on the bend. Don't worry about exposing the point as the shells are quite fragile. If the crabs are small, then you can use more than one on each hook.

When the fish prefer fiddlers, there's a few tricks you can use to increase your catch. One is to go to a smaller hook—say #6 Virginia—and snell it onto thirty pound test leader. Another modification is to shorten the leader of your hooks to about six inches and then tie them in tandem. That's called the "fiddler rig" and it works. The closer contact between you and the fish will make bites more easily detected and will put more fish in the box.

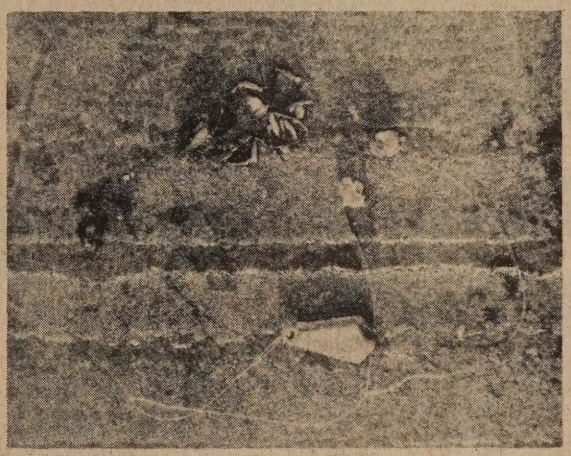
As I've mentioned before, I spent a number of seasons as a mate on a Sheepshead Bay party boat. Some days the boat was full and I could not fish. Between taking out backlashes, replacing rigs, etc., I had time to observe the better fishermen. As usual, "Bernie the Cop" was doing a number on the blackfish. I watched his movements as carefully as Sherlock Holmes would the nefarious Moriarity. After a few hours, I finally saw what he was doing. When his sinker hit bottom, he'd reel in slack immediately; then he would drop his rod tip an inch and tighten it back up. He did this a half dozen times in quick repetition and then held the rod perfectly still. He did it gently and I knew the sinker never moved, but the crab bait tied off above the sinker bounced and skittered the way a live crab might. And this flutter was what made his bait the most desirable. I approached him later in the day and explained what I had seen. He was good enough to say that, yes, it was a little something extra that separates the men from the boys in blackfishing. But only the gentle jigging will work. Move the sinker and the fish will steer clear.

The rougher the water, the more difficult it is to

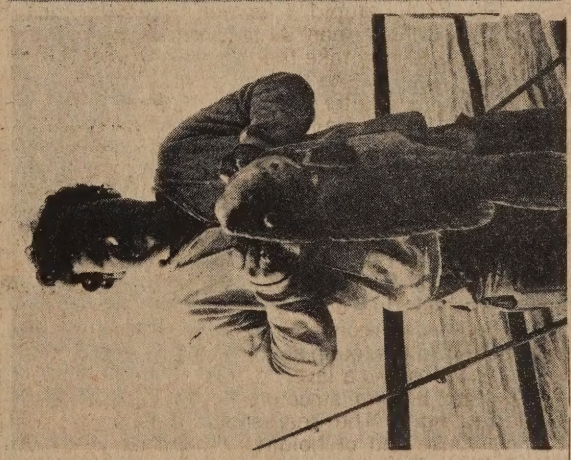
(Continued on page 32.)



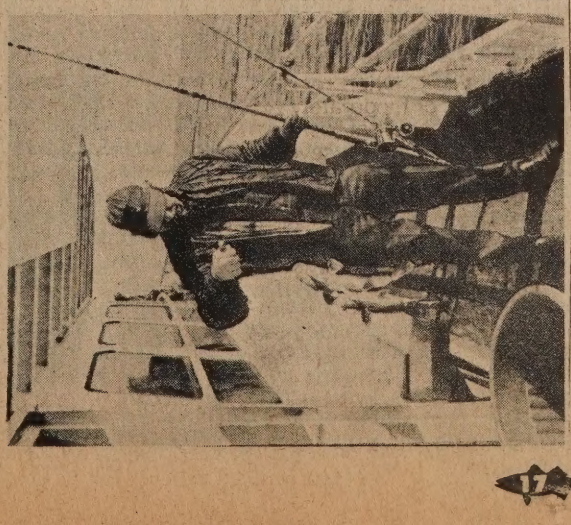
When the fish are picky, fiddler crabs can be the most effective bait for blacks.



Basic rig with green crab. Legs, claws, and shells can be used for chumming.



Jimmy Gleason unhooks a bulldog blackfish that went for a whole green crab.



A not so common blackfish double-header caught on a piece off Sea Bright.

The angler on the right has chicken delight while the poor fisherman at left has the blub, blub, blues.

Heave-Ho, Me Hearties!

by Dick Mermon

If you sense a craving for something unfamiliar in rod and reel angling, demanding stout tackle and body stamina—tilefishing is your quest. Such angling is no kid's game, but an endurance test with end results offering fine eating.

Very few open boats (party boats) trek to the edges of or beyond the Hudson Canyon for these bulldogs of the deep. The Night Owl II, sailing from Freeport, N.Y., has been journeying twice, even three times, a month since the beginning of June and will continue its jaunts providing weather permits, into September. Reservations must be made well in advance at the Freeport Boatmen's Association or directly to Captain Jim Landslata, simply because it is a first-come first served basis with a quota of twenty-five anglers per trip. Each venture requires between seven and eight hours running, leaving the dock at midnight, returning about 7:30 p.m. the same day. Time, tide and the Night Owl II, wait for no man. When that witching hour arrives, the boat departs with or without a full quota. Therefore, it is vital all fares be on board at least one hour prior to sailing time.

Fishermen wanting to make this fishing adventure should be in good physical condition and prepare themselves for a seven hour ride out and another seven hour return voyage. Most anglers do not realize that this time period is a strain on the body. Comfortable sleeping attire can be brought on board such as a fold-out cot, foam mattress, sleeping bag, or whatever a body requires to be comfortable. Resting periods, especially outward bound are fully gratifying once on the fishing grounds, for it will be six hours of heave-ho me hearties.

Depths in which these bug-eyed, bullheaded tilefish are taken makes use of mini-tackle impossible. Many unprepared fishermen come aboard toting reels holding 200 yards of monofilament line and codfish rods, expecting to reach bottom. In order to enjoy tilefishing, better beg, borrow, or steal a 6/0 reel filled with fifty pound Dacron, a fifty class rod, or something stiff enough to handle the rig; a belly gimbal and a shoulder harness. Bizarre as it be, a good fifty class shark outfit is ideal for tilefish.

Jim Barr, mate on the Night Owl II, has experimented with various line materials, finding braided Dacron best suited in this type angling, because it lacks elasticity. Monofilament, though easier to handle, has an overwhelming amount of stretch when trying to set a hook. Some monofilament lines have the wet resilience of one inch for each twenty-four inches. This one in twenty-four inch stretch, on an average 500 foot depth or length, comes out to be twenty-two feet of stretch before a hook penetrates. Combine line stretch, plus fish weight and you could be reeling all day to to reach the surface.

Braided wire, stainless steel, or monel is the next best line material due to its lack of elongation. Wire absorbs no moisture when submerged; therefore, has less water resistance, requiring less scope to reach bottom. With all benefits leaning towards wire, Dacron line outfished the metal line on several occasions. Since the boat constantly drifts, wire produces a high-pitched vibration as it slices through the water. In turn, these sound waves become transmitted directly towards bottom where the bait is stationed. In such great depths, it is a silent world; thus, vibrations become exceedingly loud, possibly spooking some tilefish nearby. One remedy is to attach ten feet of monofilament to the wire's end; in turn, fasten the mono's end to the quick release swivel. Now telegraphed sound waves will stop a slight distance from the fish.

Quick release rigs are essential terminal tackle. Stainless steel releases retail for about $7 apiece, whereas brass and copper tubing sell for around $1 each, yet both work equally well. These tricky little devices permit a bait to descend with assistance of a heavy weight and release the load upon a quick jolt of a strike. When a tilefish inhales the squid bait, the angler sets the hook, pulling a spring loaded connection open, allowing the weight (whatever it may be) to drop free of the line. This weightless freedom permits the fisherman to fight, or rather "heave-ho" a tilefish towards the surface. Deep bottom feeders are usually bulldogging battlers up to a certain level; then their bladder inflates, propelling the fish upwards.

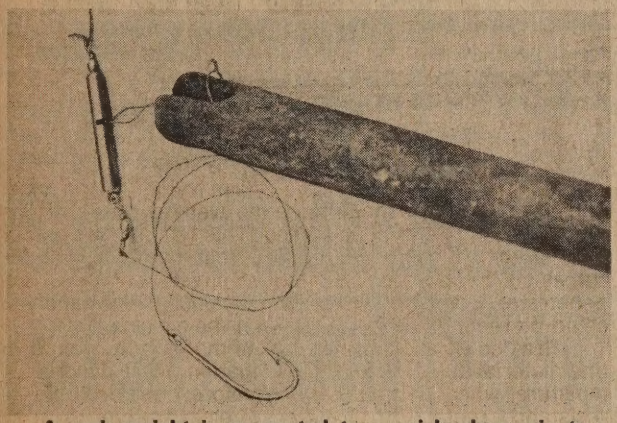
Since active fishing is done from a drifting boat in water depths of four to six hundred feet, bringing the bait to the bottom creates an occasional problem. Constant use of lead weights can become expensive. Therefore, other

means by which some of the experienced tilefishermen substitute sinkers are cement-filled soda or beer cans. Window sash weights, cut steel reinforcement rods, or any similar small, but weighty objects can be utilized as bait descenders. The primary object is to place the bait on bottom as rapidly as possible. This action prevents drag, better known as a "bow or belly" in the line. Once down, it does not take long before a tilefish finds the squid baited hook.

Since one end of the release is fastened to the line, the opposite swivel holds a three or four foot length of fifty to eighty pound test monofilament, bearing a 9/0 O'Shaughnessy styled hook, honed needle sharp. Tilefish have pliable mouths, but it is a long distance that line must be tugged by the angler attempting to set a hook firmly. Keen-edged hook points guarantee rapid penetration. Retrieving a fish is one thing, but missing a strike and having to reel an empty hook for re-baiting is time consuming, annoying, and exhausting.

Some people say tilefish flesh is similar to lobster flavor. To me, only lobster tastes like lobster, but the pureness of tilefish meat is a gourmet's delight when dipped in batter and deep fried, broiled, baked, boiled, then served as cold hors d'oeuvres with horseradish sauce. Though highly palatable, one factor remains constant. Tilefish are very difficult to obtain, yet market prices are not high and neither is the demand. It is probably because of where they are found and the exhausting effort an angler must partake in. Such angling is far more taxing than any other type and must be taken seriously, for it is heave-ho, me hearties until the fish is to gaff.

A bug-eyed, bullheaded twenty-pound tilefish is wrestled into the fishbox with ice.



A sash weight is connected to a quick-release rig to bring the bait rapidly to the bottom.

Jim Barr, mate on the *Night Owl II* prepares some oversized sinkers from cut steel reinforcement rods.

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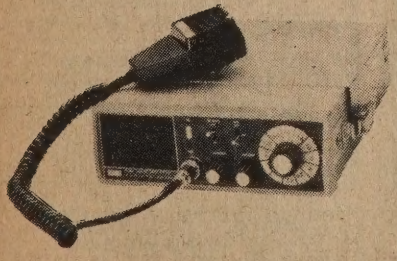

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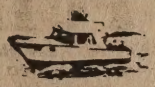

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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

Porgy fishing is in the limelight as the excellent fall run continues in the areas from the Midway Rips to Block Island. The South Shore beaches are loaded with schools of various sized bluefish and albacore and they stretch from the lighthouse past Gurney's Inn. Striped bass are few and far between, but a few boats have taken a couple of fish trolling around dawn and some sharpies have taken some nice catches casting bucktails. Cartwright bluefish have been erratic and can be blitz or bust from day to day. Virtually no one fishing offshore and fluke have all but departed. Blackfishing off to an excellent start at Outer Shagwong and Cerebrus Shoals.

Capt. Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** told us that the porgy fishing has been very good off Block Island, but at time

Jeanette and Christina Simons with two of the flounder they caught in Montauk Lake. Chris is holding the 2½ pounder she caught and the 2¾ pounder her mother caught, while Jeanette shows how big the fish she is going to catch NEXT time will be with her hands.

Cornelius James and party with a load of bluefish and one striper caught aboard Capt. Paul Sundberg's "Montauk."

it hasn't been a bail job. Anglers are catching a really great mixed bag of fish that includes snowshoe flounder in the 3 lb. class, sea bass to 6 lbs., codfish to 8 lbs., and blackfish to 12 lbs., mixed in with the porgies of medium size.

Capt. Budd of the **Viking Skipper II** was fishing the areas from the Midway Rips to Block Island for some excellent porgy action. High hook honors this week Mrs. Inge Willilams of Amawalk, N.Y., who hoisted 147 porgies of mixed sizes early in the week. Sunday was more productive than Sat., with a high hook going at 91 progies. Budd informs us that starting Monday, Oct. 9, he will be sailing 6AM daily as an open boat for striped bass and bluefish to get in on the fall run of fish. Budd reminds us that jigging and squidding with diamond jigs last year produced a record party boat striped bass of 50½ lbs.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** has been taking a few bass around the Lighthouse, jigging bucktails. On Sun. morning, he jigged 3 fish in the 20-25 lb. class, so it looks like the fall bass run can start at any time. Lots of bluefish all over the south side and some big monsters at Cartwright.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** told us that the night bluefishing at Cartwright has been so fantastic that the **Viking Starlight** will now be sailing at 6:30 a.m. daily, so that everyone can get in on the action. The boat will diamond jig and fish bait at Cartwright for big blues and diamond jig for striped bass around the Point when the fall run begins. Meanwhile, the Viking Star is still knocking the porgies dead, while the **Viking Startship** is taking cod at Coxes Ledge and Block Island.

LATE NEWS FLASH!!! Capt. John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** called just as we were going to press to tell us that he took six bass Monday morning casting bucktails, the largest almost 30 lbs. Looks like we may have a fall bass run after all.

Next weekend will see a rerun of the annual **Deep Sea Club Full Moon Tournament**, not to be confused with the contest being run out of the Montauk Marine Basin. This presti-

Mr. Goldberg of New Jersey and Joe Brittman of Northport hold 54 lb. cod which tied for a record $1,753 pool on board Capt. Paul Forsberg's "Viking Starship." Herb Webster settled for $185 with his 31 lb. pollack. These fish were all taken during the Sept. 10 Nantucket Trip.

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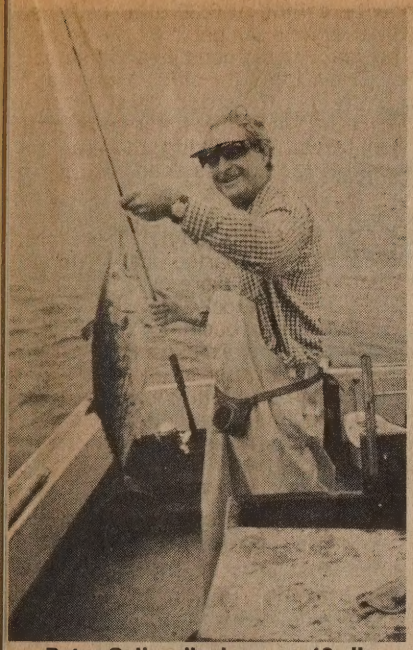

Pete Cella displays a 10 lb. bonito taken on 8 lb. test spinning tackle aboard the charterboat "Vivienne."

gious tournament will start on Friday at noon at October 13 and run through Sunday noon, October 15. Entry fee will be $75 per boat, which includes two anglers, and there is a fee of $15 for each additional angler. For further info, call 668-2166 or write for your entry blank to the Deep Sea Club, Box GG, Montauk, New York 11954.

The Marlin VI reports the night bluefishing is dynamite with 300-400 big choppers per trip. Porgy fishing on the day trips is roughly 60-70 porgies per person fishing Block Is. waters.

Capt. Bruce Hoek of the charter boat **Tara** called to tell us that Fri. night's charter for Don Miller resulte in 9 bass from mid to high 20s. Sat.'s diamond jigging at Cartwright was slow in the morning, but picked up in the afternoon on blues. Don says he has 2 open dates for Oct.'s full moon.

Capt. Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** called to report that 6 members of the Skunked Again Fishing Club led by Artie Morris decked 91 blues from 10-16 lbs. at Cartwright Sat., on jigs and herring baits.

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Tim and Matt Stevens teamed up to land this 270 lb. blue shark aboard the Matima. Photo courtesy of Star Island Yacht Club.

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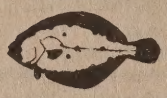

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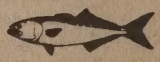

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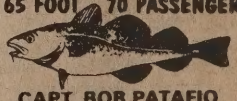

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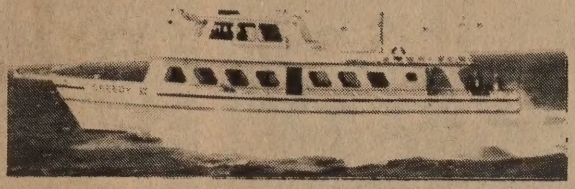

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Eight-year-old Meg Lynch proudly holds aloft her first bluefish. The 12 pounder was taken in Moriches Inlet on her Dad's boat, the Skibbereen. Subscriber Club Photo.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

SHINNECOCK

Mickey at **Altenkirch Tackle** reported that the boats are still trolling a lot of bluefish right outside the Inlet and there are smaller blues in the bay. No one is seriously offshore fishing any more and the fluke are virtually gone. Flounder are just starting in the canal and have picked up somewhat in the bay and the fish are still small.

MORICHES BAY

Ben at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** reported that the fluke are gone and the snappers seem to be leaving. Blueclaw crabs are fair and although there are flounder around they are small. Best flounder action has been off Great Gun beach and the deep holes around buoys 42 and 44, where they are mixed in with a few sea bass.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports flounder action red hot. All skiffs are returning with from 35-60 good flounder per skiff; all from 3/4 to 1 lb. John Stellingworth and Gerad Green had 60 flounder on bloods fishing without chum just west of buoy 43. Tony & Dennis Ayala along with Hank musto boated 25 good flounder and 3½ dz. monster blueclaw crabs. The crabs are the size of lobsters, we are told by Skimore's. On Fri., Hank Schlanger and 2 pals boated 80 flounder, sea bass and blacks at the hole at buoy 42. There's great fall flounder now and the weather is good too and the fish are pouncing.

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★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

Rose and Richard Bielawski along with Pete DePaolo show off a catch of 31 fluke up to 3 lbs. taken off the Moriches CG Station in late August, from Skidmore's Fishing Station.

SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **Young's Fishing Station** tells of flounder being best off Heckscher to the tune of up to 25 flatties per boat. The best mixed bag action on kingfish, blowfish and eels is off Barrett Beach. A few weaks in mid-bay on squid strips and sand worms. 1-3 lb. bay blues all over the bay on any bait or artificial.

BAY SHORE

The Casey Lee reports flounder catches getting better daily. Fri. saw Sid Winek of Bay Shore and Artie Hartmann of Floral Park walk off the boat with 57 keeper flounder between them. Sat. saw Leslie Watkins of Uniondale high hook with 25 flatties. Sun.'s action off a little, but a good showing found on the Babylon flats which is a very good sign of a strong fall flounder run in this area. Capt. Neil says the boat is sailing every single day, even if just a few people turn up, so don't be afraid to go down and find that the boat isn't sailing.

Smokey's Bait and Tackle tells of porgies and sea bass in the deep water surrounding the Kismet reef on worms and clam. Lots of blackfish caught Sat. on fiddlers and green crab at the bridges and at the artificial reef. 2-4 lb. blues at the sand bar in the inlet on diamond jigs and umbrellas. On Tues., Chris Camp of Brightwaters had 17 blues trolled up on umbrellas in 1 hour. Sun. saw Rich Ferri along with Lisa, Larry, Angelo and Dom aboard the Montauk charter boat **Hurry Up** claiming victory over 117 blues up to 15 lbs., on diamond jigs. Lot of bass eels being sold . Small flounder in Bay shore Channel and the Babylon cut, and many big snappers in the bay off the docks.

CAPTREE

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports blues were excellent Wed. and Sat. nights, all jumbos and a total catch of over 200 fish per night. For some reason, Fri. night's trip, Sat.'s and Sun.'s were picky on blues. The fluking is just about over but flounders are picking up nicely and it looks like a good fall flounder season. The ocean reef is producing very good sea bass action, along with porgies. Fri.'s charter for these bottom fish for the Devonshire School bagged up nicely.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** told us that the bluefishing was very good all week with 90 percent of the fish being taken while fishing the wrecks. Both jigs and bait are working good. For bait, smelt seems to be best, but live bergall, bergall fillets, butterfish and bunker are all working. Chumming very lightly helps to catch the blues which range from 8 to 15 lbs. Capt. said many anglers had between 15-20 fish a man, but some anglers get less. During the occasional lulls in the fishing, anglers who fish with bottom rigs are taking huge sea bass up to 12 lbs. 4 oz. A few bonito and albacore are mixed with bluefish but very skittish and quite difficult to catch. George also said that on Sat., a mako shark came into the chum slick and bit a bluefish in half that was on somebody's line. The angler reeled in the head to the boat and the mako followed, only to be surprised by the Captain's son who gaffed the shark and tail-roped it before he knew what hit him. The Captain said it looks like we have a good late bluefishing season in store for us that should run well up to Election Day and perhaps beyond.

BABYLON

Augie's Bait and Tackle reports the bay is alive with 3/4 lb. porgies, with some days better than others. This would be on clam and worm. Flounders, kings and blow fish in varying degrees are being taken inside the Sore Thumb and the State Channel; also on clam or worm. Blues on the outside in 75' of water due south of the inlet. Blacks at the artificial reef and bridges on fiddlers and green crabs on the slack. Ski says he hasn't seen a bass all week. Big blues are periodically being picked in the surf by surf casters on just about any bait or artificial and in general surfcasters are getting decent shots at blues steadily, though they would

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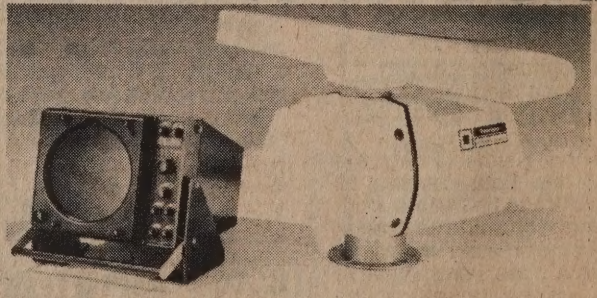

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rather these fish had stripes.

Bill at **Babylon Fishing Station** reports on Sat. good mixed bags were caught by all skiffs, as evidenced by Gary Benhan with 55 mixed flounder, fluke, porgies, blacks, sea bass and blowfish at the Sore Thumb. The same mixed bag exists south of Good Sam. State Channel behind Grass Island has been producing flounders, fluke and porgies along with some kingfish in the state channel west of the Babylon cut. Loads of blues from 10-13 lbs in 120 ft of water. Dick Yorkin loaded up with blues on Sat. at that spot on bait and chum.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle informs us that Joey G using live snapper and bunker bagged a few teen bass fishing the construction dock. Good blackfishing on the artificial reef on fiddler and green crabs. Flounder are starting with the best being the deeper areas such as the Sore Thumb, the State Channel, anywhere you've got 10 or more feet of water on worm and clam. The same bait is also accounting for sea bass and porgies at the hole at the lighthouse. A few snappers still around.

COPIAGUE

Larry at **Bait and Tackle Unlimited** reports good flounder catches at the Copiague Hole and the flats at Zachs Bay on blood and sand worms with chum and also red-dyed clams. Blackfish at the Kismet Reef, the bridges and the Rota Wreck on fiddlers. Blues from 10-14 lbs. from the inlet mouth on out on chunk bunker, bucktails or sand eels jigs. Some stripers off the beach on live eels at Cedar overlook. Weaks at the lighthouse off the CG station on live snappers and at the Wantagh bridge on bunker. Clem Marteena bagged a 12¼ lb. weak at the 3rd wantagh in the morning light. Blues, albies and bonito on umbrellas at the 65' mark.

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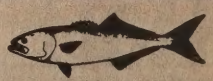

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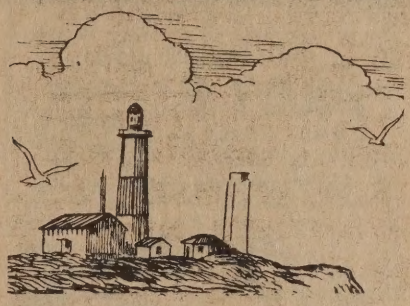

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SEAFORD

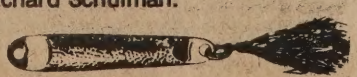
Big Ed at **Shore Isle Marina** reports lots of sea bass have been taken this week off the short beach CG station by local angler Bart Jenks, fish mostly in the 3/4 lb. category. Ed and wife boated 68 porgies, blows and flounders fishing an area off the new bulkhead just about 200 yards away from the Marina on worms and clam chum. Fluke are gone. Ed Klutchnik had 30 blues trolling Cholera.

Lon Wanswer Bait & Tackle reports there are lots of porgies, sea bass and flounders being taken on worms at Ft. Neck Pt., 4 Corners and around the bridges. Still snappers at Florence and Alhambra Beaches. Weaks, bass and blues at the bridge on live bunker, but you've got to get it down deep. The first hour of outgoing has been best at the 3rd Wantagh and 3rd Meadowbrook. Also weaks at night on sands. Blues still heavy at Cholera. Good blackfishing on slack water at the bridges on fiddler or green crab.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine Tackle Center's singing dog sings to us about flounder and porgies being taken in the deeper holes in the bay and around the bridges on clam and worm. Merrick Pt. has been a good spot. 10-15 lb. choppers being trolled off the beach at the 35' line and small blues still abound at Cholera. Just an occasional striped bass being brought in on any one of several methods. Weaks at the bridges at night on worms. Shop now open Sundays till 5PM for the annual free instruction on rod building and bucktail and fly tying instructions.

Joe Carter's Blue Max ran Sat. to the 120' line where they got 600 lbs. of blues from 11-15 lbs. chumming. Aboard were Tournament Anglers members Joe, Bob Riley, Ben and Richard Schulman.



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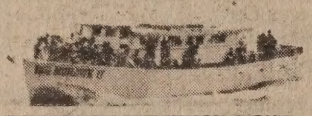

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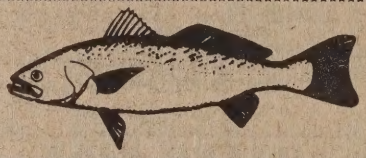

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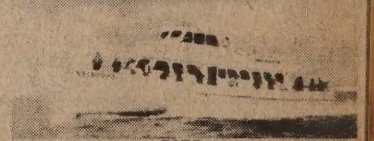

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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

FREEPORT

Starstream II reports continued superb bluefishin at Cholera on both day and night trips, fish running from 3-5 lbs. This past Sat. night was the last night trip for the season, so now its day blues only. Your reporter fished on Wed. night with Capt. Specht at the wheel and took 71 lbs. of blues off the boat. People on both sides of me did as well if not better. Fish were coming in right and left.

The Capt. Al reports the great bluefishing continues on day and night runs. 36 was high hook Sun. and 33 was high hook Sat., along with a sprinkling of albies. In the daytime, fish were baited and jigged. These are small to medium fish. Al says the fishing and the weather have both been great. Al says the crowds are light in the fall, so come on down and fish with plenty of room.

The Aloma II reports both Sat. and Sun. nice size porgies and sea bass were caught but quantities were on the down side due to wind and sea conditions. Averages were 1/4 bucket of fish per man.

Capt. Tony of the **Miss Freeport** tells us flounder action has been good all week in local waters; fish to 1½ lbs...just like the spring fish. Sat.'s high hook was 28 keepers and the fish are getting larger. Tony says you won't know how good the fishing is until you come on down.

Capt. Mike of the charter boat **Apus** called to tell us fishing during the week and weekend still remained very good with bluefishing excellent at Cholera, 30-50 blues per trip, fish up to 12 lbs. The Wed. charter had over 100 fish consisting of flounders, sea bass and porgies.

Hook Line and Sinker Bait and Tackle reports blues at Cholera. The Meadowbrook bridge has been holding large blues which have been taken on bucktails. Lots of small flounder in Randall and Baldwin bays, Swift Creek, Fundy Cut and high flats drains. Blackfishing good at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. Sand porgies all over the place. Best blackfishing with green crabs at T wreck.

Charter boat **Nite Owl** called to say that Sat.'s charter for Herb Steinberg and J. C. Penney group put away 55 huge blues from 10-14 lbs. on a favored piece of Capt. Tuna Joe Long's pet offshore grounds.

Capt. Mike on the **Capt. Lou II** tells us flounder fishing very good this week, hi hook being Thurs.'s catch by Paul W. Etherau of Franklin Squre with 41 keeper flounder. Sat.'s hi hook was Dave Schwartz of Brooklyn, with 35 keeper flounder. Plenty of flatties, porgies, sea bass and a few kings and blowfish all in local spots, with fishing steady all day.

Capt. Sy Carlin of the **Blue Fin II** reports all bluefishing trips getting dynamite results working Cholera for fish 2-5 lbs. Hi hooks always in the hi 20's. Sal Mileo was hi hook Fri. with 23.

Ron Leonardi, who docks his boat at Roy Flood's mako Marina called to say on Sun. 3 people fish on his boat Sea Hawk, at Cholera with bait and chum and took 170 of the swarming blues.

Arnold Doery of Oceanside on the boat Sand Pebble, fished 8 mi. south of the HA on Thurs. in 150' of water and hit schools of dolphin, landing 2 medium size examples. There were plenty of of small albacore, bonito, and tuna about. Green feathers and cedar jigs were being trolled.

Freeport Boatmen's Assoc. reports all the Assoc. boats loaded up on blues 2-5 lbs., and bonito 8-10 lbs. at Cholera all week. Also an occasional gorilla blue was taken. A 14 lb. albie was boated on the Capt. Joe.

The Nite Owl II charter for the Hudson Anglers on Sat., resulted in a good catch of cod and pollack, all big fish.

Ron at **Sea Isle Sports** tells us the Meadowbrook bridge is a very good prospect for night fishing for big blues and weaks on live bunker with outgoing tide best. Rig 4 ft. off the bottom with a 10' leader. Flounders very good in Swift Creek and the hole off the CG station. Snappers very good at the golf course.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells of an improving flounder catch on a daily basis from Merrick and Baldwin Bay and at the CG station and Swift Creek. Porgies, kings and eels being taken at these spots also. Snappers are tapering.

capt. Dave of the charter boat **The Rogue** tells us Fri.'s charter had a good catch of flounder from 3/4 to 1 lb at a secret hole in the Oceanside area on worms and clam. Sat.'s charter for Don and Party at Cholera was a dozen blues to 6 lbs and a 2 lb. lobster taken on bunker chum. Sun.'s trip for Tracy Lira and party saw a good mixed bag of sea bass, porgies and blacks at

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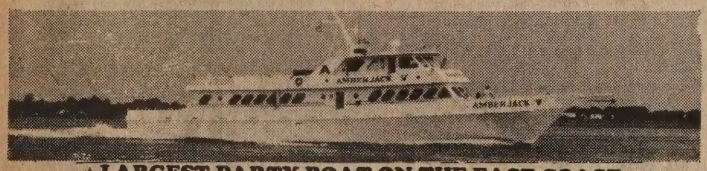

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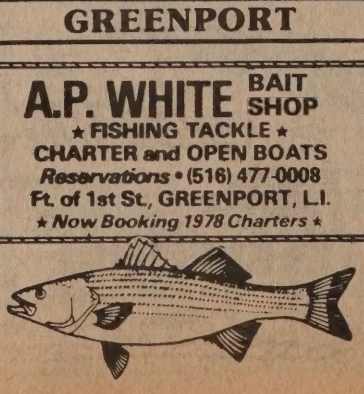

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FALL BLACKFISH

(Continued from page 17.)

detect hits. For this reason, the person who fishes with a six-and-a-half to seven-and-a-half foot rod has a decided advantage. You can maintain a tight line to the rig by lowering and raising the tip to coincide with the boat's movements. Too slack a line will not transmit hits, and a tight line will bounce the sinker and scare the fish. That's why the sidewinder is popular amongst the sharpie blackfishermen. Not only will they adjust rod angle, but can let out or take in line without having to engage to disengage the reel spool. A rhythm as smooth as the seas is required. The same technique is used effectively by cod fishermen and once you get the swing of it, it will become another fishing reflex.

From the end of September to mid-November is about the height of the fall run. The blackfish is used by some boats as a target of opportunity to fill the gap between the last of the summer species and the first of the whiting. But tangle with a few of these bucktoothed warriors and I'm sure you'll agree. They're hard fighting, good eating and difficult enough to catch to make them a challenge. And worthy of some special attention from anyone who considers himself a serious fisherman.

Dave's secret lump in Jones inlet vicinity.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Marina reports weakfish from 6-12 lbs being taken on live snappers at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges. Fish are being caught on both incoming and outgoing tide. Blackfishing excellent at the T wreck and also the Roda Wreck on fiddlers and green crabs. Plenty of snappers and small porgies remain in the bay and there is good bluefishing going on SE of Jones Inlet in 30-50' of water. These blues are being trolled and jigged.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle** spoke of good blackfishing at all the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs. He was more enthused by the development of a good, early flounder run. Some boats had as many as 100 of the newly arrived fish. The ratio of throwbacks to keepers is about 3 to 1. There were a couple of very good catches of kingfish made by surf-casters at Gilgo and Tobay Beaches - on worms. Bluefishing at Cholera still "Solid".

The Commodore reports medium size flounder in Reynolds channel. John Trost of the Bronx had 20 keepers. Snappers and porgies are also being picked. Blackfish at the bridges.

Joe Masone's Debra with Steve Whitsun and 2 other buddies aboard had 35 blues up to 25 lbs. fishing in 120' of water due south of the inlet fishing the bottom with bait and jigs.

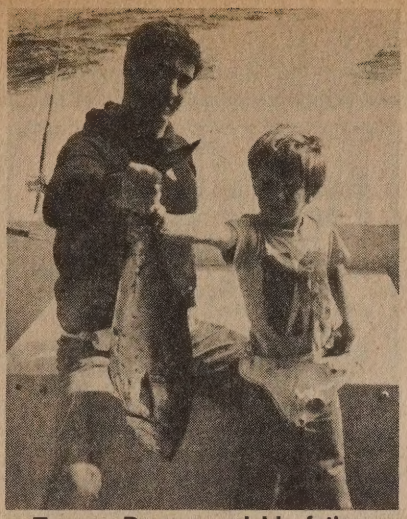
JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle weighed in some big weaks over the weekend. Jose Roman had a 14 lb 3 oz tiderunner while George Rodriguez had one of 12 lb 4 oz. These fish are being taken on bunker at high water. The South Channel Bridge is the spot. Blackfishing at all bridges steady. Most are being taken on fiddlers. Snappers and small porgies still solid at North Channel Bridge along with small flounders.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt. Tony of the **Big Mohawk II** reports great bluefishing at 17 Fathoms fish 10-20 lbs. with bonito and albies mixed in. Blues are on bunker backs and the rest on fresh spearing. On Sat. it was the Fulton Lounge Fishing Club that filled ulp. On Sun. it was a charter for the Dept. of Corrections arranged by Walter Pollack that bagged up. These blues should hold till the end of October if there no storms. Tony says he has a couple of open weekend dates for the end of this month.

The Eisie K III reports good bluefishing Sat. and a slaughter at 17



Tommy Dorgan and his father show off the albacore Tom caught SW of the Cholera aboard the "Sea Bee."

Fathoms. The pool fish going 19 lbs., general run of fish running from 6-19 lbs. On Sun. the 19 lb. pool fish beat by a whisker five other fish that were just ounces under it. Several albies and bonito mixed in. THis was mainly on bait, with just a few fish on jigs and bananas. Hi hook for the week was 25 fish.

The **Dorothy B** tells us that Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri. saw very good sea bass and blackfishing for all fares. The weekend there was a big heave on which put a dent in the bottom action.

Capt. Walter on the **Flamingo III** tells of really good fishing all week except for Fri. Jumbo blues were flying, fish running 3-10 lbs, with a few 15 and 16 lbers mixed in along with some bonito and albacore. The boat is fishing the Farms and 17 Fathoms. Typical strong fall fishing, mainly bait with an occasional jigged fish.

The Helen H tells of continued good catches of blues on the day and night trips. Capt. Nick on the **Blue Sea III** also reports super blues with a scatter of b &A from the Tower to 17 Fathoms from 3-18 lbs. Hi hook for every trip anywhere from 30-35 blues.

Capt. Butch on the **Zephyr** says Sat. he had blackfish in the 4-5 lb. range in the AM and some 1 lb. plus porgies and the same size sea bass in the afternoon. The strong heave that was

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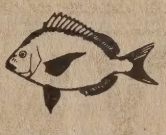

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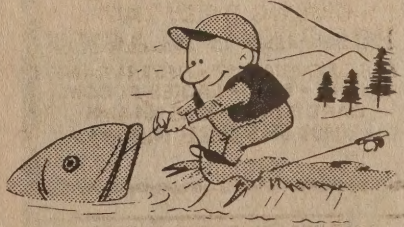

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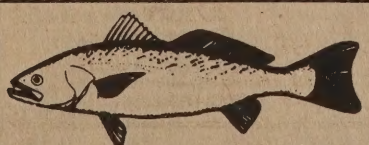

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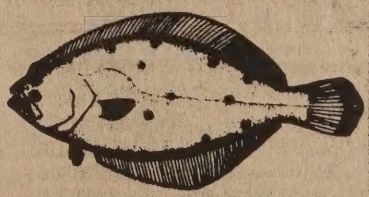
around on Sun. saw fish taken, but catches were not as good as they should have been. Blackfishing very good also on Wed. and Thurs. Fish up to 6 lbs.

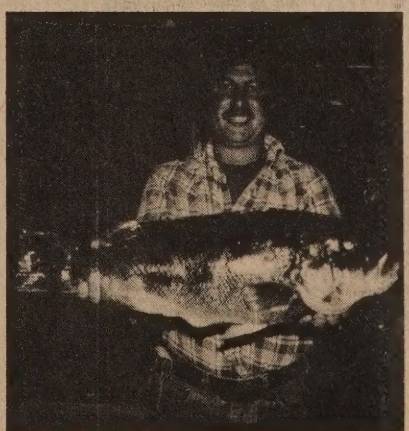
The Atomic II reports they've been having loads of blues on overnight trips and the fluking has remained good working Sandy Hook channel on the bottom trips.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait & Tackle** reports plenty of blues from the jetty to 17 Fathoms. A few weakfish on worms, umbrellas and tins around the jetty and Sandy Hook channel. Lots of blackfish at the rock jetties .

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** reports big blues for surfcasters. Fish running 8-15 lbs. From Midland Beach to Great Kills Park on outgoing tide. Big swimming plugs such as the Danny and Atom are doing a number on the fish. Bait is also producing. A few small stripers on worms, poppers and bucktails. At Penny Beach and Cliff Street for that action. For boatmen, Lenny had news of weaks at buoys 44 and 46 in Princess Bay on Sandworms and bluefish along Great Kills Beach for trollers using Lupo Bunker spoons. Monster blues, 15 - 17 lbs., at Norton's Point on Lupos fished with 150' of wire and a 6 oz drail. Last of the flood and first part of outgoing are producing the best action. Snappers, porgies, and flounder in Great Kills Harbor.





This whopping 13½ lb. blackfish was taken at Matinecock Point by Paul Giangreco. It was weighed at Jack's Bait & Tackle in City Island.

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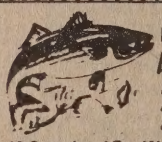

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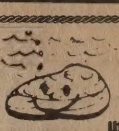

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SurfSide: BLACKFISH

(Continued from page 14.)

end of Wildwood.

South Shore: Shinnecock Inlet, east jetty; Moriches Inlet, east jetty (west jetty requires a beach buggy); Jones Inlet, east jetty, and Smith Point Bridge (now restricted, fish under bridge).

Fall fishing, depending on the weather, begins in September or October and can last to mid-December. I know some anglers who fish for blacks in January. Spring fishing starts around late March and late to early June. Ideal water temperatures should range from the upper fifties to the low sixties.

Before the next spring or fall run, start preparing some rigs. At many bait shops, the owners tell me, "Only old-timers go blackfishing." If that is the case, many "youngsters" looking for surface feeding blues, bass, or weaks are missing some of the most exciting bottom fishing around: blackfishing.

PECONICS & GARDINERS

★ BEST BET ★

BLUEFISH

GREENPORT

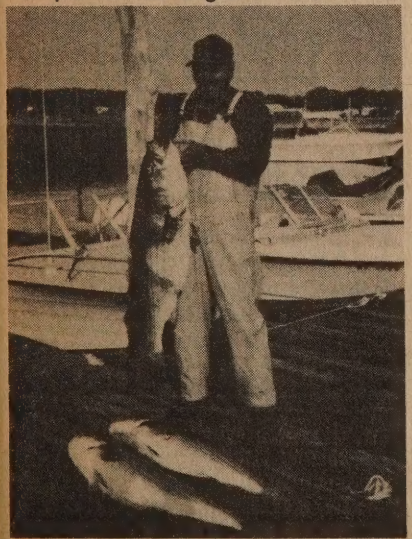
The Brand X continues the red hot bluefishing at the Race and So. of Fishers Island, where fish are averaging 12 lbs. and going up to 18. Capt. Geo. Porter says the action is fantastic, but he's not seeing the mobs of bluefishermen that should be pulling in these fish by the bags full.

The Wilheric reports good blackfishing over the weekend, with fish from 2-5 lbs. being taken off Plum Island. Pool fish ran up to 8 lbs. and porgies to 4 lbs. were mixed in with the catches.

A. P. White Bait Shop reports good black and flounder fishing from the surf from Greenport to Orient. The flounder are running up to 2 lbs. and are taking worms and a good spot for blacks from 2-5 lbs, is the Greenport jetty. Striped bass are hitting bucktails and live bait off Plum Island.

SOUTHOLD

Bill at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells us in the bay clam and bunker chum is accounting for good porgy catches at S. Ferry and Jessup's while blacks being caught in good numbers on fiddler and green crab at the Brickyard in Greenlawn. Decent flounders being caught in the bay at Rayden shores on worms. The sound has excellent blackfishing with 40-50 fish per skilled angler in the 4-9 lb.



Dennis Kelly of Sag Harbor hefts a 46 lb. striper, heaviest of three cows he boated in Plum Gut. Subscriber Club photo.

Jolie and Justin Fries with a catch of bluefish up to 16 lbs. taken on the family boat at Norton's Point. Subscriber Club photo.

range on fiddlers and greens. This is at the lighthouse and Mulford Pt. Flounders very good too in the Sound at Petty's Bight and at the 1st two traps near the Pt. Porgies are in the sound also and there is good fall blues and bass at the gut and at the race.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports good porgy fishing south of Nassau Point, Rose's Grove, the west side of Robin's Island and between the radio and the big sand slide. These fish are being taken on worm and skimmer clams. Some weakfish and kingfish have been mixed in with porgy catches and small flounder are starting to show in the area.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports the flounder fishing is great. Sun. Ed Gleichmann of Noyac and Craig Sr. and Jr. and Warren Of Valley Stream came in with 60 nice keeper flounder on blood and sand worms. Sands were most effective. On Sat. Carolyn and Mike Stromberg of NYC kept 20 large flounder. The station is now closed on Wednesdays.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle tells us that a few fluke are still being caught at Shagwong on strips bait, sand eels and squid. Flounder are hitting stronger now in the back bays and in Shinnecock Canal on blood and sand worms and clam. 12-15 lb. bluefish at the inlet on the Southampton side, hitting on just about anything thrown at them by surfcasters. Fish on the inside as well. Sinking Rebels accounted for a 21 and 23 lb. bass at Ditch Plains on Thurs. morning for 1 customer. Porgies still being caught around Sag Harbor on sand worms and clams.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop tells us 3-8 lb. blues are being taken on small plugs at the Middle Grounds. An occasional fish to 12 lbs. has been picked up at the spot. Buoys 9 and 11 are producing bluefish on trolled green tubes. The Shoreham power plant is also producing nice sized bluefish from flood to outgoing on bunker bait. Louis Rodriguez fished this area with bunker chunks and took an 18 lb. blue. Blackfishermen are doing well in the area with fish up to 7 lbs. being taken. Porgy fishing has slowed, but there are still plenty of fish to be had on worms and clams. One customer fished Indian Island Park with sand worms and was rewarded with nice flounder up to 1 lb.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports good blackfishing along the shore on fiddlers and green crabs. These fish have been running 3-6 lbs. with an occasional 11 lber. Porgy fishing remains good 1/4 mile past the buoy which is straight off the harbor on worms and skimmer clams. Bluefish are being trolled at buoys 9 and 11 with fish averaging 2-4 lbs. being taken.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports fishing remains excellent. Unlike last fall, the sound has been calm enough most days for enjoyable fishing. Sunday, Tom Tarafestas, Manuel Karallis and Eddie Siasios caught 100 porgies up to 2½ lbs in a rental boat at Sunken Meadow and the Mansion on clams and worms. Sal, Sophie and Paul Bruno picked up 40 blues to 4 lbs at the mouth of the river. The Nissequogue is full of snappers and small mackerel. Flounder fishing produces 10 keepers out of every 15 caught. Blacks best at Cranes and Eatons Neck.

NORTHPORT

"Fall Action is underway" says Tom of **Bowman's Sporting Goods**. Large porgies at Callahan's on worms, clams, or squid. Porgies and blacks mixed at Can 13 off of Eatons Neck. Green Crabs or fiddlers for the blacks. High water producing best. Good fishing for small flounders at Sand City and Duck Island. Some big

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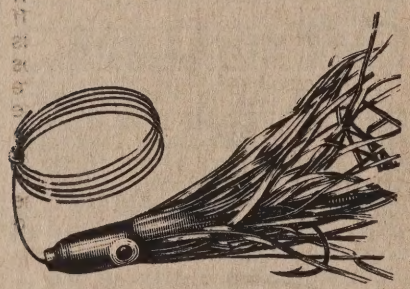

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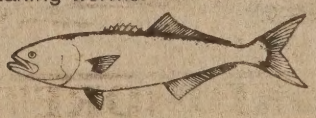
blues up to 15 lbs on plugs and bunker chunks at the power plant and off the beach at Eaton's Neck for surfcasters. Some bass being trolled on green bucktails and tubes in the rip at Eaton's Neck while snappers remain both large and numerous in the harbor.

HUNTINGTON

The Ever Ready reports a bluefish blitz on Sat., while Sun.'s bottom run resulted in nice catch of blacks, flounder and porgies. See ad for new sailing schedule.

Four Winds Tackle reports consistently good bluefishing in Huntington and Cold Spring Harbors. These fish are hitting bunkers and are running 12-15 lbs. Buoy 13 off Eaton's Neck and buoy 15 off Diamond Point are good spots for diamond jigging blues from 3-6 lbs. Catches of 40-60 fish have been common. A few striped bass are being bucktailed in the rips off Eaton's Neck. Porgies up to 2½ lbs. are taking worms and clams off Marshall Field and at buoy 13 off Eaton's Neck. Blackfish action is starting in the area on green crabs and fiddlers. Hotspots right now are buoy 13 and 11B. Fish up to 8 lbs. are being taken, with the bigger fish being found at 11B. Flounder action has started up inside Huntington Harbor and at Marshall Field. These fish are ranging 1½ to 3/4 lbs. and are taking worms.



NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle used "terrific" to describe the local porgy fishing. LLOYD'S Neck and the middle of Oyster Bay Harbor are surrendering the finest kind of porgies on worm bait. Blackfishing consistent at Whitewood and Mattinecock Points as well as at Center Island Reef. Surfcasters catching them at Stehli's Beach. Big blues in the harbor before dark on bunkers and a few bass, 4-5 lbs, for worm trollers at Center Island Reef and Whitewood Point after dark.

FISHERMAN'S CLASSIFIED

To place an ad in *The Long Island Fisherman's* classified ad section, send in copy for the ad exactly as you wish it to read, along with your check or money order for the full amount. *(Sorry, no billing.)* Rates for non-subscribers are 25-cents per word, 30-word ($7.50) minimum. Subscribers of *The Fisherman* receive a discount if they include the number off their subscription label. Classified rates for subscribers are: 20 cents per word, 30 word ($6.00) minimum. Discounts for extended runs: 12 times, 5%; 35 times, 10%; and 50 times, 15%. To run a photograph with an ad, add$13.95 to the words.

BOATS & MOTORS

1978 EVINRUDES
2-$228; 4-$319; 6-$457; 9.9-$580; 15-$670; 25-$780; 35-$880; 55-$1320; 70-$1498; 85-$1736; 115-$1836; 140-$1950; 150-$2600; 175-$2688; 200-$2800; 235-$2940. ELECTRA MARINE, 610 Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, NY. Scott & McCulloch Parts. FOB. Call: 516-599-3003.

34' CHRISOVITSCH
Twin 350 FWC Chris Craft engines. New Sitex; VHF; CB. Dual controls; 2 fishing chairs. Bimini top. Much, much more. $10,500. 516-549-5533.

1972 24' PRO-LINE Center Console. Twin 1976 Evinrude 70s. Lo Hrs. All new canvas, DR, radio. Yard Maint. Eve: 516-829-6544; Weekend: 516-668-5378. Asking—$5000. In water at Montauk.

1978 JOHNSON OUTBOARDS
You won't believe our low, low prices. 2-235 h.p. OUTBOARD MARINE SERVICE, INC., 24 Cottage Avenue, Bay Shore. 516-665-3885.

1976 Mako 200 h.p. Evin. W/15 h.p. Kicker. White line recorder, CB; outriggers, 2 batteries and loaded with extras. 1977 Shoreline Trailer w/power winch. Keep indoors. Like new. $9500. 516-643-7612. 516-691-8061.

31' 1972 JERSEY FIBERGLAS SPORTFISHERMAN. Twin 225 h.p. FWC (Reblocked 1976. Low hours.) Loran, 2 fish finders, 3 radios. Auto. pilot, gin pole, Lee outriggers, flybridge enclosure. Pompanette fishbox; gallery. All in mint condition. Plus much more. MUST SELL. 516-IV 1-2841.

MUST SELL
1975 25' Chris Craft Tournament Fisherman Twin 130 h.p. Inboard, DF; head. Sleeps 2. 30 hours since new. Call Fred: 516-653-6777.

GULFSTREAM 1978 GRADY WHITE 20' 5" 200 h.p. OMC, FWC, White Line recorder. VHF, FM, Canvas. Loaded. 27 hours old. List over $14,000. Best offer over $8500. Call any time: 516-728-0922.

BOTVED—Coronet 24' 1969 Fiberglas Deep V with twin 120 h.p. I/O Volvos rebuilt in 1977. If you're looking for a good boat, this is it. Priced at $5000 it is an excellent buy. For further details, call—201-274-5039 Days, or 201-891-3387 Evenings. Boat at Montauk.

FOR SALE
50'x17 Charter-Head Boat. Licensed 44 pass. New certificates 1978. Built Deltaville Va. 1969. Extra heavy const. 1 - 671 n; 1 - 15 kw onan gen. Radar, Loran, 2 bottom mach. CB, VHF, auto. pilot. Must be seen. Many extras. For info, call evenings 516-668-5751.

1976 Renken, Center Console, 70 h.p. Evinrude with galvanized trailer, power winch. Canvas. New VHF radio. Extras. Trade or cash for 20 to 21 ft. late model Fiberglas boat $4200. 516-666-7722.

SWORDFISH PULPIT—Commercial type with harpoons. 6 Middleneck Rd., Roslyn, NY. 516-MA 1-1260 bet. 8AM - 4:30 PM.

1974 23' PENNYAN Flybridge. Dual controls; Bimini top. 225 h.p. Mercruiser Inboard - 430 hrs. VHF & CB Radio, white line recorder. Power anchor. Plus many extras. Like new. $9600. 516-732-2993.

LUHRS 280, 1976. FWC 250 h.p. Chrysler, combo electric/alcohol stove, electric refrigerator. Sleeps 5; dual batteries; monomatic head; pressure water. VHF, Raytheon recorder, shore power. Teak interior. Winter cover & frame. A-1 condition. Large fishing cockpit. Excellent for offshore fishing or family cruising. Low maintenance, high enjoyment. $21,500. Boat in L.I. marina. Call 201-891-5795.

FISHING MACHINE
"SKIMMER" 20' MAKO 1973, Mercury 150 h.p. 1977 w/power trim, 10 h.p. auxiliary, white line recorder. Custom outriggers; rod racks and cutting board. Many extras too numerous to mention. Fully euipped and immaculately maintained. Must see. $6200. 516-669-6826 after 3PM.

22' AQUASPORT. 1977 150 h.p. Merc. power tile-trim. 2 new 28 gal. aluminum gas tanks. CB, depth finder; Morse controls. Outriggers. In water. Will demonstrate. Excellent condition. $5500 FIRM. 516-271-9371.

115 Johnson 1974. Used two seasons, with controls and new prop. $1050. Tom Kubic. Day—516-535-4253; Eve. 516-261-2117.

26' FREEPORTER, 225 Daytona FW cooled; brass rub-rail; 2 anchors; 900' Nylon line. Ideal winch and capsun. Johnson CB; Ross straight line recorder; outriggers; fish box, and more. Call evenings: 516-GE 1-6509.

1972 20' COBIA Cuddy, 1974 150 h.p. Merc. Power tilt, tandem trailer. Asking $3500. In water at Shirley, LI. 212-435-9359; 212-987-4317.

32' 1974 LUHRS 320 Twin 250 h.p. FWC. CB, VHF digital sounder; compass; anchor winch. New Bimini enclosure. Sleeps 6; electric refrig. & stove; water pressure; hot water for galley head and separate shower. 2 sailfish chairs; saltwater washdown; rod holder and outriggers; cradle. Full winter canvas. Many more extras. Excellent condition. $26,500. Boat in Montauk. Call any time: 201-437-3099.

29' KARL TANK SPORTFISHERMAN Flybridge, 392 Palmer Eng. Teak deck. Sleeps 4. Needs paint. in water & running. Asking $1200. Ideal for fishing. Call between 6-8PM. 212-847-3211.

1965 26' PACEMAKER SPORTFISHERMAN. Twin 1971 Chrysler 150 h.p. New canvas. Galley, head, sleeps 4. Dual stations, Teak swim platform. Outriggers; chair, VHF, CB, DF, tape deck. Fast, economical. $5500. 516-732-1215.

32' JORGENSEN, Twin 225 Palmers. FWC Flybridge; CB; depth recorder; Monel tanks. Pressure water. Good fishing boat. After 6PM, Ed, 226-0803.

FORMULA 1975 23' 233 h.p. I/O. Recorder, CB. Winter & Summer canvas. Compass; trim tabs; swim platform, swim ladder. Extra prop with 1977 Shoreline trailer. $8500. 516-587-7249.

GRADY WHITE, new 1978 Gulfstream, 20' 4" cuddy I/O version of Hatteras Overnighter. 185 h.p. OMC. Recessed walk-around deck. Self-bailing. 65 gal. tank. The perfect family fisherman. Full canvas. $10,400. Eddie's Marine Service. 212-FA 7-3168.

SPORTCRAFT 27' 1971 325 h.p. FWC. Mercruiser '76. Tuna tower, full enclosure; white line, Sea Temp., deep flasher, RDF, CB, VHF. Outriggers; 150 gal., 12 gal/hr. $11,500. 516-567-2432.

72 STARCRAFT 22' Islander. Cuddy Cabin, 165 I/O, 1976 galvanized tandem trailer. Power winch. Night lights for fishing; Ritchie Compass. Full canvas. CB. Extras. Excellent. $3850. Eves: 516-265-8558. Days: 822-4787.

'72 TROJAN 25', 9' beam Fibergias. 225 Inboard; electronic ignition. Enclosed Bimini center console. Stand-up head. Built-in live well barrel, pump and drain. CB, VHF, Ross, DF, etc. This boat is a pleasure to fish. Well maintained. Must sell. Bought house. $6000. 212-945-2292.

CHARTERBOAT "KIM" FOR SALE. 28' Olsen, cedar, cruises 21 mph. Tower, chair, Bimini. Teak decks; stern controls. All electronics. 1975 350 h.p. Palmer rebuilt 9/78. Many extras. 516-239-9112 or 9232 after 7PM.

GRADY WHITE, New 1978 17'-4" SPRINT Bowrider Runabout. All cushioned bow and jump seats. 2 sun loungers. Full canvas with aft cover. 18 gal. gas tank with dashboard gauge. Ladder. With 1978 85 h.p. Johnson. $5578. Eddie's Marine Service, 212-FA 7-3168.

FOR SALE: 2, 427 Ford Engines with pargon transmissions; 2 - 1-3/8" stainless shafts; 2 - wheels 22x26; 2 - 150 gallon gas tanks. Call 9-5, 516-289-3406.

17' Boston Whaler 1976 115 h.p. Power Tilt. Very low hours. Tandem axle aluminum trailer. Power winch. Excellent condition. 516-757-8360.

GRADY WHITE, new 1977 25' KINGFISH cruise cabin boat, 235 h.p. OMC. Never again price! $17,350. Equipped; ready to go. Full factory warranties. Eddie's Marine. 212-FA 7-3168.

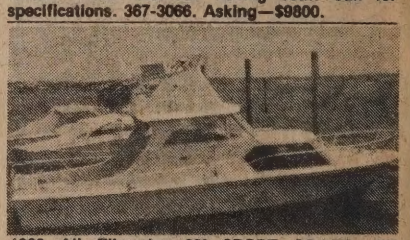
1974 Chris Craft Sportman 22' 200 h.p. Freshwater cooled. All canvases. Head. Many extras. Excellent condition. $6500. After 6:30 p.m. 516-666-6029.

SEA RAY 75 24' Spacious V Bunk Cuddy Cabin. Immaculate. Recorder, VHF, head, Teak swim platform; custom camper top. 888 Mercruiser power and gas saver. Low mileage. 600' line. Extras. Engine is mint. $2000 UNDER MARKET. Best offer over $7200. 516-826-6661.

19' WESTWIND, Deep V. Double Hull. Fiberglas. 1972/125 h.p. Evinrude. Gemtronics paper recorder; full canvas. Many extras; in water. Must see to appreciate. $2800. Negotiable. Days—212-835-7118. Weekends/evenings—212-327-7484.

1976 19' MAINE BUILT SKIFF. All Glass. Downeast Hull. 1977 70 h.p. Evinrude 40 hrs. CB; side console; windshield; teleflex steering. Bow storage. Lights, rod holders. Spray rails; compass. Self-bailing. $3750. Days: 212-675-6688. After 7PM—516-935-5359.

FOR SALE: 1973 Cuttyhunk Bass Boat. 22' Tripp "Compleat Angler." All Fiberglas Inboard. Fully equipped pocket sea boat. Stern controls; tiller; trailer. Finest Montauk fishing boat. Call for specifications. 367-3066. Asking—$9800.



1969 All Fiberglas 28' SPORT CRAFT. 250 Mercruiser I/O 150 gal. A-1 cond. Flying Bridge with Bimini Top. Dual controls; full galley; stand-up head. All canvas covers. VHF; compass; depth finder. Many extras. In water at Montauk. $8500. Call: Day—915-969-8246; Eve.—516-825-4741. Weekend—516-668-5465.

1976 Mako 23' (Like new). 233 h.p. Inboard. Outriggers; radio; tandem float-on trailer. Other extras. 516-587-8525. $10,500.

MISCELLANEOUS

CAMPER—MOBILE TRAILER. All aluminum, weighs only 1800 lbs., over cab. Sleeps six; refrigerator, stove W/oven; 2 basin sink, hot water heater, thermostat control heat. Full rest room facilities, including shower & extras. $3000. Call Days: 516-725-4200. Evenings: 516-728-3580.

BOATS TRANSPORTED—G. MAYER & SONS, since 1965. Local and Long Distance launching and hauling at various locations. Insured carriers. Cradles transported. "Tender loving care by George." 5% off with this Ad. 516-588-1500.

"JAWS" SHARK BELT BUCKLE in rich, glowing brass finish. Heavy metal buckle, oval, depicts great white shark with jaws wide open. Frightening teeth. If you fish and wear pants, this is for you. Send $5.50 plus $.50 postage to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566. Not a dull, flat buckle. This buckle is in high, realistic bas-relief. Looks like it will bite you!

OBTAIN YOUR U.S. COAST GUARD LICENSE TO CARRY PASSENGERS FOR HIRE. Personalized instructions. Continuous classes. For information, call Capt. Dan Masterson of Lindenhurst, 516-226-5664.

ATLANTIC CHARTERING SERVICES: Chartered boat for pleasure or fishing, 25' Inboard up to four passengers, out of Freeport, L.I. Capt. Paul, 212-382-5019.

FIRST MATE WANTED—Experienced. Open party fishing boat operating from City Island, Bronx, N.Y. Call between 7PM - 9PM. 914-237-5351.

Genuine Harpoon Dart Belt Buckle. Solid Bronze. Same dart that tips the harpoons of all of L.I.'s shark charter boats. A rugged, good looking buckle. Will last a lifetime. Send $9.95 plus $.50 post. & handl., to; P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

1985 TROTWOOD TRAILER 16'. Excellent condition. Sleeps six; screened porch, stove w/oven; refrig., sink; toilet with shower; hot water heater, weight 2285. $1300. 212-IL 8-4672 or 516-293-0765.

SPECIALIZED DUCK & GOOSE HUNTING on the North Shore. Select dates open in our powerized mobil super blind. Very reasonable rates. For advance reservations. Phone: 516-747-0289.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

BOATING EQPT.

MODAR NAUTILUS VHF. All channels and the quality you expect from Motorla. $595. Trades welcomed. Open Thursdays till 8 PM. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy., Islip. 516-581-0194.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT—Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-05 Broadway, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

TRANSPORTING YOUR BOAT? Call Bill & Bill Boat Transport, Ltd., insured carriers at 516-277-3440. Boats 15' to 32', to and from your local ramps and marinas. "The safety of your boat is our main concern!".

BOAT INSURANCE—ALL RISK—12 Month Navigation. Low, low rates. Budget payments. Machinery damage included. Fishing Boat Liability. ARTHUR A. ISAKSON, 196 No. Central Ave., Valley Stream, NY. Call: 516-VA 5-4338 Day or Night.

Rebuilt starters, alternators, generators. Pick up and delivery available. Mobile service to your boat. 210 h.p. Chrysler freshwater cooled. MAKE OFFER. LAWRENCE B. FELS, Marine engine specialist. 24 hr. phone: 516-766-4345.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on L.I. Sales, installations, service. TOM CASH WELDING* Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Aluminum construction, welded joints. Delivered and fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free Estimate: Call: Bob Christian. Daytime or Evenings—516-862-6179.

FISHING TACKLE

FISHERMEN
CAST YOUR OWN SINKERS, squid and net leads. Brass wire eyes, swivels and hooks available. Send $1 for catalog. Refunded with first order. SWEET'S MOLDS, Box 127, Springville, N.Y. 14141.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this widely used 3-hook rig, especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design-construction keeps tangling of hook at a minimum. Handmade. Finest materials. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or money order to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

Electrify your rod winding bench. $29.95 N.Y. Res. 7% tax (Motor, foot pedal, adaptor). Rod building component catalog - $1. Rebatable with purchase. MERRICK TACKLE, 2370 Merrick Rd., Bellmore, NY 11710.

RODWINDER. Complete motorized machine for professional or amateur rod builder. Bench top or free-standing models are available. Handles all rod sizes easily. Call or write for prices and literature. Production Attachment Co., Inc. P.O. Box 211, Moriches, N.Y. 11955. 516-878-2620.

ATTENTION! CUSTOMIZED, HAND MADE RIGS. Tandem fluke rig - 3/$3. Gets short strikers! Tandem-tied 2-hook flounder (Fish attracting sinker included!), blackfish, porgy, rigs 4/$2.25. Seabass Hi-Lo Rigs 2/$1.50. H. MENKES, 90-18 153 Ave., Howard Beach, NY. 11414.

COD KILLER RIGS! A long-proven double hook (Hi-Low) design rig that will fill the freezer for you. Easily removable bottom hook for wreck fishing, when only the top hook should be used. Fish both hooks over open bottom. All rigs hand tied. All best materials. 3 completely tied rigs - $3.50. PORGIE/SEA BASS/LING/WHITING KILLER RIGS!. These species have tried to get this rig declared illegal! 3 needle-sharp Mustad beacks tied in at just the right height to get you big catches. A time-tested rig that is not sold in stores. Hand tied—finest materials. 3 completely tied rigs - $4. Send to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566.

BEACH BUGGIES

1972 Chevy Suburban, 4 w.d. Auto. trans., lockout hubs, new LR 78-15, CB radio; Reese hitch. Also 17' Boston Whaler Montauk, 65 Johnson. Both 1973. Front canvas; Bimini top. Galvanized trailer. 13" wheels $6000. 516-546-8982.

PRICED TO SELL
CHEVY SPORTVAN 30 1973. One ton with air conditioner; new snow tires; heavy duty trailer hitch. $2500. Call after 6PM. 516-725-0902.

REAL ESTATE

BUSINESS FOR SALE
Fishing Station and boat yard operation. Low $20s. South Shore. Call: 516-363-6024 after 6:30 p.m. Lease available on property.

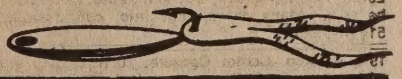
VACATIONING OR YEAR-ROUND LAND FOR SALE: Fishing, hunting, nature lovers' paradise. Be the proud owner of (3-4-5) surveyed acre parcels, wooded; new roads, electric; cut out of large private estate. SOUTHERN CATSKILL MOUNTAINS, two hours from L.I. SPECIAL PRICE OF $3500 PER ACRE. Small amount down, terms up to (15) years. For additional information, call DEER RUN ESTATES, 516-666-6171.

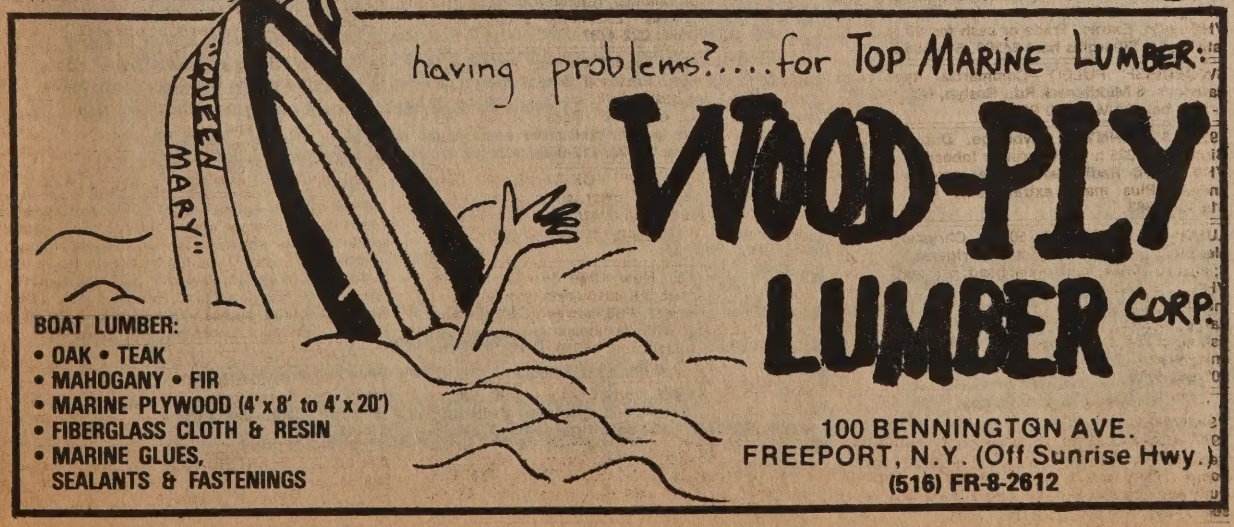
BAIT & TACKLE STORE—Fully stocked, waterfront property on Merrick Rd. Bldg. w/Apt; garage & cellar. Complete stock w/Fixtures. Estab. 10 yrs. J. Hagen, 48 Merrick Rd., Copiague, N.Y. 516-842-0784.

PRIME HUNTING PROPERTY...100 MILES NYC. 15 acres excellent deer/wild turkey habitat. All wooded with stands of oak, maple, white pine. Outskirts of beautiful Narrowsburg, NY, Sullivan county. Easy access to fine fishing on Delaware River. Minutes away from 13,000 acres of Cooperative hunting land; nearby Pennsylvania also offers fine hunting, fishing, skiing...$15,000. Days: 516-484-4490; Eves. 516-666-7593.

FULL 4W/D REPAIRS
289 F Skidmore Rd.
DEER PARK, N.Y.
(516) 586-9694
4W/D FRONT ENDS RESEALED, ADJUSTED, REPACKED, FROM $78!
THIS IS A JOB THAT HAS TO BE DONE!!!

Shark Tooth Jewelry
Genuine teeth, lowest prices!
1-1/4" Mako tooth, $4.95; 1-5/8" Mako tooth, $8.95; 1-3/4—2" Mako tooth (800-lb. fish) $14.95; small White Shark tooth, $5.95. All are gold wire wrapped with loop for attachment to necklace.
Send check or M.O. to: B. KASTENDIECK
512 Birch Hollow Dr., Shirley, N.Y. 11967





The Fisherman's LIBRARY

Modern Saltwater Sportfishing

by Frank Woolner

Salt Water Sportsman's famed editor has put it all together in one complete, entertaining and educating volume. From knots and terminal tackle to surf, boating, bay and pier techniques. From flounder and fluke to striped bass, snook and giant tuna, this book has it all. Woolner's easy to read style will make this one of the favorites on your book shelf. *365pgs., illus.*

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by Henry Lyman

Salt Water Sportsman publisher Hal Lyman presents a lifetime of experience and research fishing for blues. Thorough coverage is given to the life cycle of the blue and to every angling method. *128 pgs., 75 illus.*

International Marine Pub. – Lists for $10
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It's all here – every conceivable aspect of building fiberglass rods from the lightest trout wand to the largest big game trolling rod. Now you can make your own custom rods, tailored exactly to the kinds of fishing you do, to your physique, to the rod action you prefer, and to your tastse in decoration and finish. 190 pages of step-by-step instructions. *196 photos & dia.*

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by Capt. Walter Kaprielian

Captain Walter Kaprielian of Montauk compiled, edited, wrote, designed and illustrated this wonderful book on simple, but delicious, recipes for the novice to cook his catch. Beautifully illustrated by the author with step-by-step diagrams, so easy to follow that Stu Miller can cook! *212 large 8½x11" pages, illus.*

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by Vlad Evanoff

A complete guide to better fishing, virtually all you need to know to match your catch with the experts. The emphasis is on method, and every kind of fishing is covered. From smallmouth bass to striped marlin, here are all the secrets – an encyclopedia of fishing knowledge! *228 pages, photos and diagrams.*

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by Frank T. Moss

Covers every aspect of striped bass fishing, from light tackle to wire lining, from boats to the surf, with chapters by the leading experts in the sport. *208 pg., 190 il.*

International Marine Pub. – Lists for $12.50
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Modern Saltwater Fishing

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Gives a step-by-step instruction in selecting matching tackle, choosing baits and lures, rigging baits, leaders, terminal tackle, etc. Procedures for trolling, drifting, and still fishing, inshore and offshore, from surf, pier and bridge. *286 pages, 143 photos and diagrams.*

Winchester Press – Lists for $10
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$8 plus $2 Funny Money

★★★★★★★★★★

The Complete Book of Striped Bass

by Nicholas Karas

Practical fishing techniques for striped bass from soup to nuts. From the surf, bank, pier, jetty, bridge, boats. By trolling, casting, chumming and bait. Day and night! On conventional, spinning and flyrod. Setting up a bass boat and beach buggy. *365 pgs., photos and dia.*

Winchester Press – Lists for $10
***SUBSCRIBERS CLUB SPECIAL*—**
$8 plus $2 Funny Money

★★★★★★★★★★

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:31	10:47	11:14	11:33	10:58	11:22	11:54	—	1:24	1:42	1:32	1:50	10:32	10:53	10/5
FRI.	11:18	11:40	—	12:01	11:48	—	12:28	12:43	2:09	2:29	2:18	2:36	11:20	11:46	10/6
SAT.	—	12:09	12:21	12:50	12:17	12:44	1:19	1:37	2:58	3:20	3:08	3:29	—	12:13	10/7
SUN.	12:38	1:12	1:17	1:51	1:20	1:46	2:19	2:38	3:52	4:16	4:06	4:28	12:42	1:13	10/8
MON.	1:41	2:14	2:22	2:56	2:22	2:50	3:26	3:46	4:55	5:22	5:09	5:34	1:47	2:17	10/9
TUE.	2:48	3:20	3:35	4:07	3:31	3:57	4:34	4:57	6:11	6:44	6:16	6:43	2:54	3:23	10/10
WED.	4:00	4:29	4:46	5:13	4:38	5:04	5:39	6:03	7:54	8:23	7:23	7:50	3:56	4:25	10/11
THUR.	5:06	5:33	5:51	6:15	5:44	6:08	6:38	7:04	9:05	9:31	8:25	8:53	4:55	5:23	10/12

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	+ 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 06
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/3	6:59	6:39
10/8	7:04	6:30
10/13	7:10	6:22
10/18	7:16	6:14
10/23	7:21	6:07
10/28	7:27	6:00

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/2	10/9	10/16	10/24

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

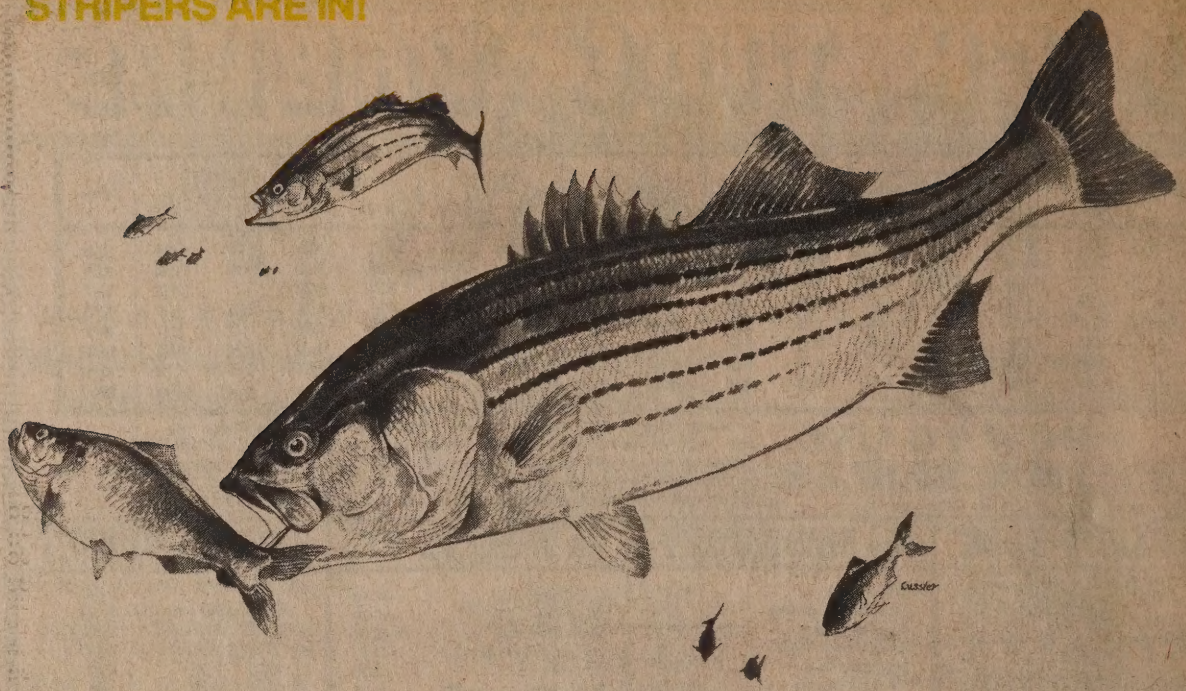
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:35	**1:45**	7:55	**2:15**
Fri.	8:30	**2:45**	8:55	**3:10**
Sat.	9:25	**3:45**	9:55	**4:10**
Sun.	10:25	**4:45**	10:55	**5:15**
Mon.	11:30	**5:45**	11:55	**6:15**
Tues.	—	**6:40**	12:30	**7:05**
Wed.	12:50	**7:30**	1:20	**8:00**
Thurs.	1:40	**8:20**	2:15	**8:45**

STRIPERS ARE IN!



Make every cast count. Depend on DuPont Stren®.

When you have Du Pont *Stren* monofilament on your reel, you have everything a fishing line can give you…all in one line.

Du Pont makes *Stren* durable. Tie a good knot in *Stren* and it will be as strong as the unknotted line. Cast to the striped bass out near the rocks or pilings. *Stren* will stand up to the nicks and scrapes. And still will be ready to battle a big one. Set your hook, and the controlled stretch and impact resistance of *Stren* work for you.

Du Pont makes *Stren* controllable. In any weather, *Stren* has just the right amount of limpness for easy handling and casting. And the patented glow of *Stren* lets you see your line, from dawn to dusk. So you have the precise control for casting or for keeping your line clear of others when you're trolling or fighting a fish from a boat.

Try a spool of *Stren*. Clear/Blue, bright Golden, or high contrast Orange. And make every cast count when the stripers are in.

IT'S THE ONLY LINE YOU NEED. DU PONT